THE SKULL MAN
SKULL MAN
7
Kazuhiko Shimamoto
Shotaro Ishinomori
TOKYOPOP

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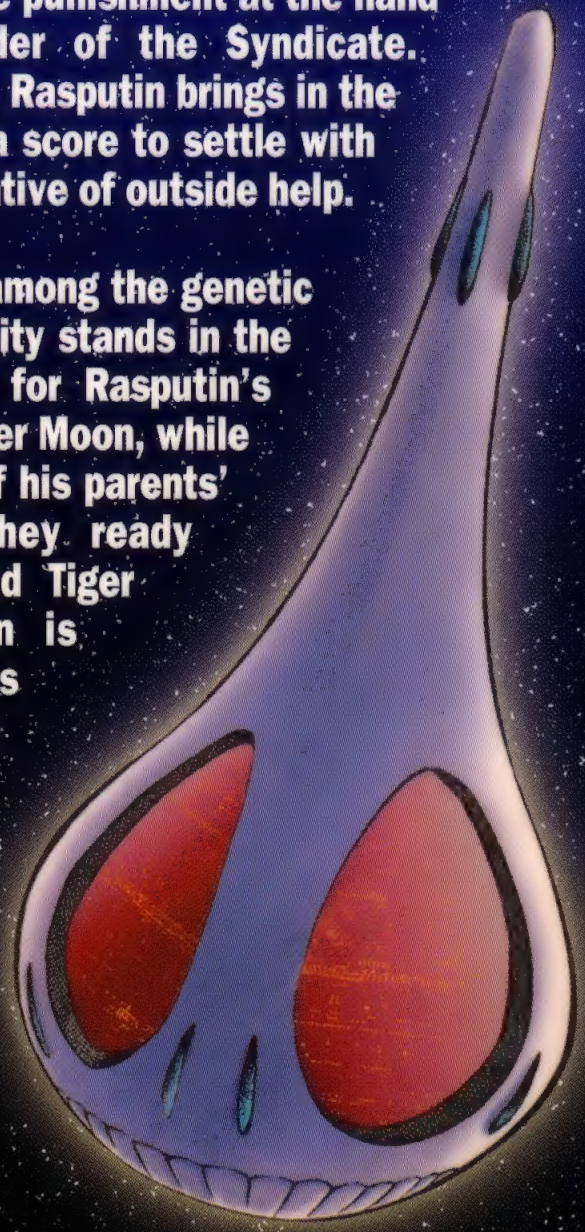
Manga/
Action/Adventure
USA $9.99

THE SKULL MAN

Rasputin has one last chance to kill Ryusei Chisato (a.k.a. The Skull Man) or else face the ultimate punishment at the hand of the as of yet faceless leader of the Syndicate. Desperate to complete his mission, Rasputin brings in the Rider Women, but Cobra Man has a score to settle with their prey, and he isn't too appreciative of outside help.

So a bloody war is about to erupt among the genetic mutants of Earth, and all of humanity stands in the balance. Maya and Garo prepare for Rasputin's impending attack on their base, Tiger Moon, while Ryusei hurries to crack the code of his parents' research. But however much they ready themselves for the battle beyond Tiger Moon's walls, the battle within is far fiercer. The spirit of Ryusei's grandfather is not wholly expunged from his life and may manifest in the most unlikely of places.



The Story So Far...

Fearing that the genetic research being undertaken by his son and daughter-in-law posed a danger to humanity, Toratsuki Chisato murdered them and destroyed their lab, intending to raise their two children, Ryusei and Maya, in an environment free from the evils of that science. However Garo, a mutagenetic creature that became a childhood companion to the young Ryusei, rescued the frightened toddler from the attack. As a young man, Ryusei set out to avenge his parents' murder, an obsession that turned him into the kind of murderer he longed to destroy. Many innocent people died in the wake of his vengeance.

After years of searching, he catches up with the killer only to learn that it's his own grandfather. Toratsuki would rather he and his legacy perish than expose the world to the mysterious powers possessed by Ryusei and his sister, so he engineers a trap to kill all three of them. But the children survived, and transcended to whatever state of being exists between mortality and divinity. Now, freed from his crippling obsession and guided by his pacifist sister, Ryusei Chisato, a.k.a. the Skull Man, has committed himself to protecting humanity. But his past may still haunt him.

Recently, armies of mutated humans have swarmed Tokyo in what appears to be a coordinated effort by a group called the Syndicate to subdue humankind. And the Skull Man may be the only one that stands in their way. However, his list of allies is growing — already his sister Maya and Garo man their secret compound high in the mountains; Maria, another supernatural being, has become disillusioned with the Syndicate and has joined the Skull Man's ranks; and Detective Hioka, originally committed to bringing down the mass murderer the Skull Man, has begun to realize that there is a much bigger threat looming on the horizon. Once major forces in the Syndicate, the Wasp and Chameleon armies have abandoned it, leaving Rasputin with very little at his disposal...except Detective Hioka and Maria, whom he has abducted.

And who is the mysterious person behind the syndicate—the faceless voice that gives orders to Rasputin—the only person who can explain the purpose of the Syndicate and its reign of terror?

CH. 44 RASPUTIN VS RYUSEI CHISATO

The Skull Man

Vol. 7

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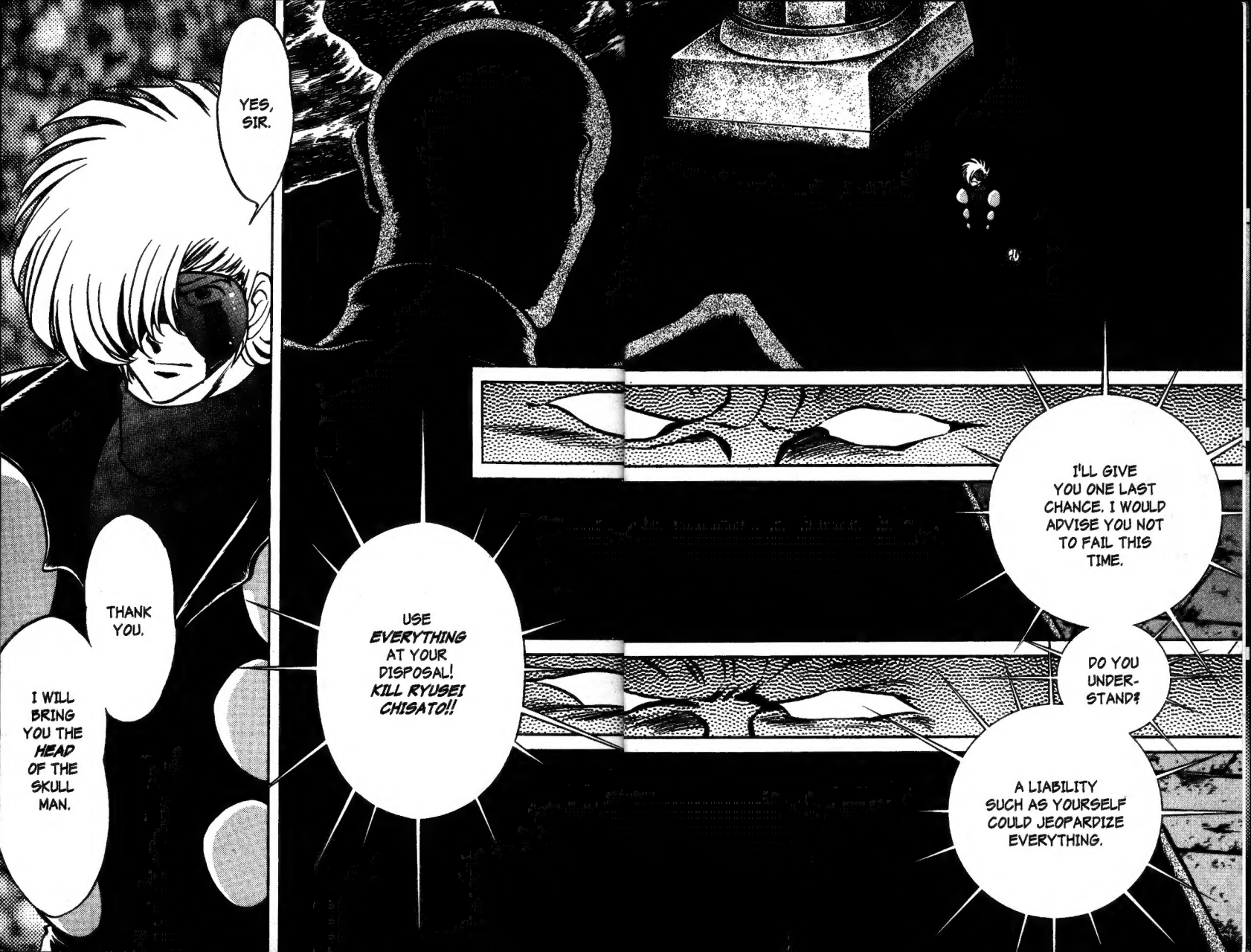
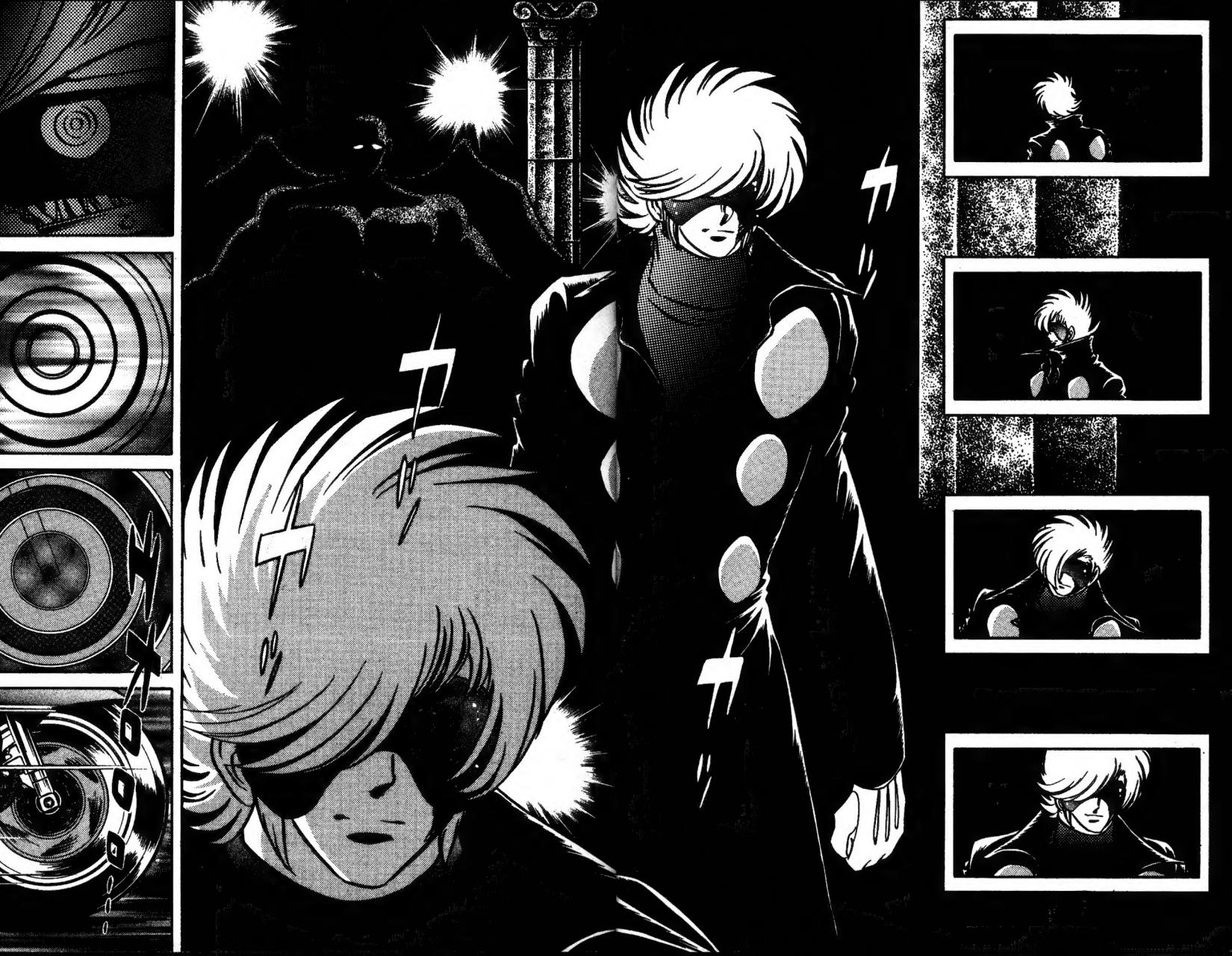
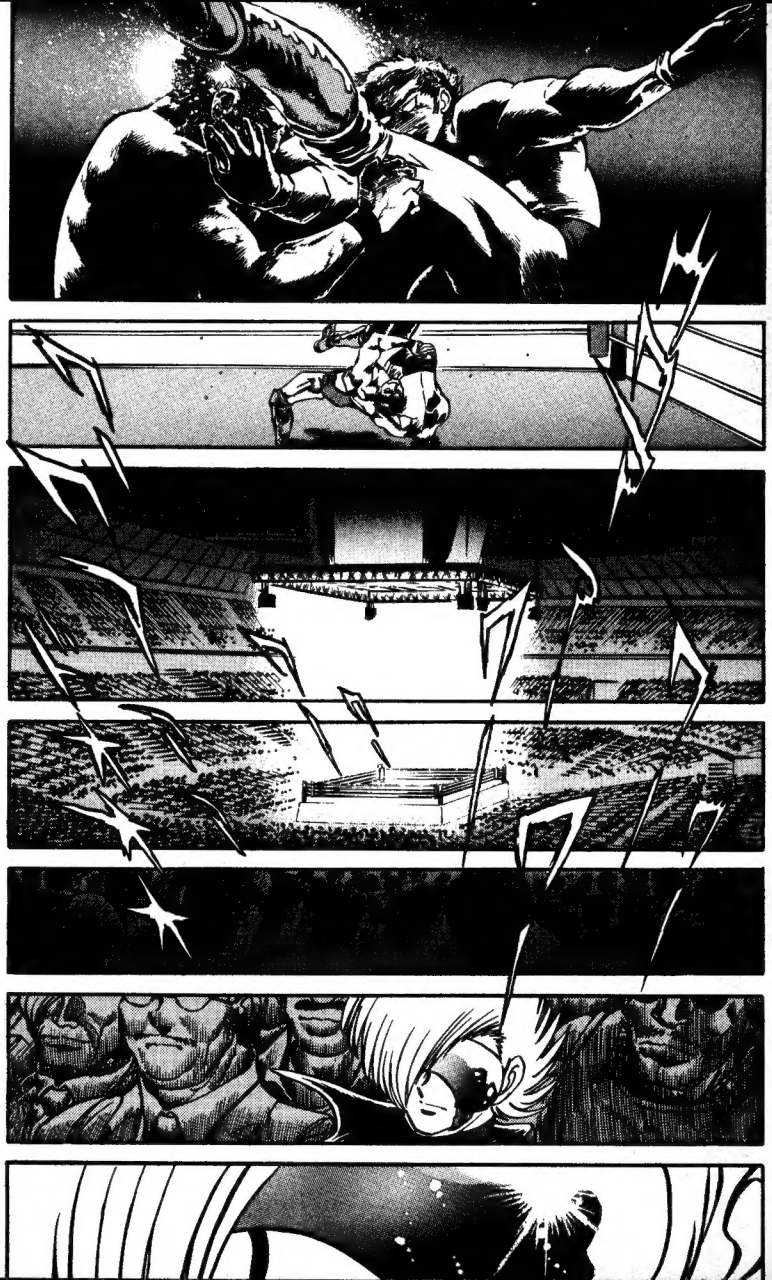
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.
WE ARE FACING AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THREAT!
IF YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH A MAN SUCH AS RYUSEI...
...YOU'D HAVE TRIED THE SAME STEPS THAT I DID!
OH?
YOU MAKE UP FOR IN CONFIDENCE WHAT YOU LACK IN RESULTS.
AND NEED I REMIND YOU HOW LACKING YOUR RESULTS HAVE BEEN.
.....

BACK AGAIN, EH?
I'M TIRED OF YOUR ENDLESS REPORTS OF FAILURE.
OF ALL THE CREATURES WITH YOUR DNA PATTERN, YOU'RE THE MOST PATHETIC.
WRONG!


YES, SIR.
THANK YOU.
I WILL BRING YOU THE *HEAD* OF THE SKULL MAN.
USE *EVERYTHING* AT YOUR DISPOSAL! *KILL RYUSEI CHISATO!!*
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE. I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO FAIL THIS TIME.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
A LIABILITY SUCH AS YOURSELF COULD JEOPARDIZE EVERYTHING.





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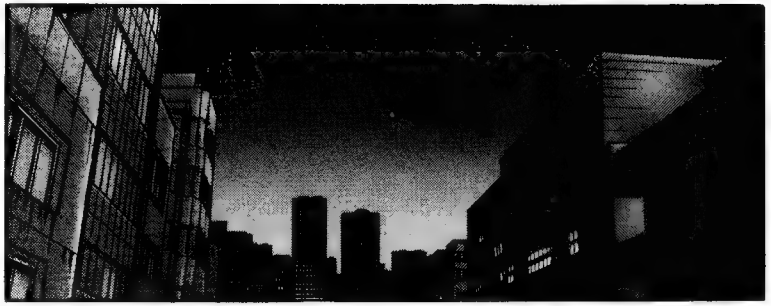
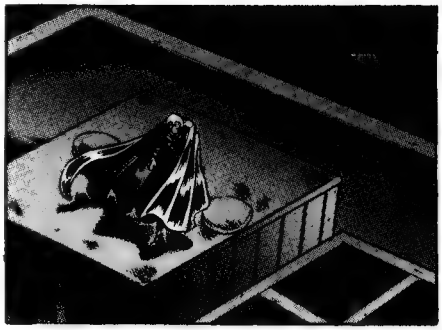
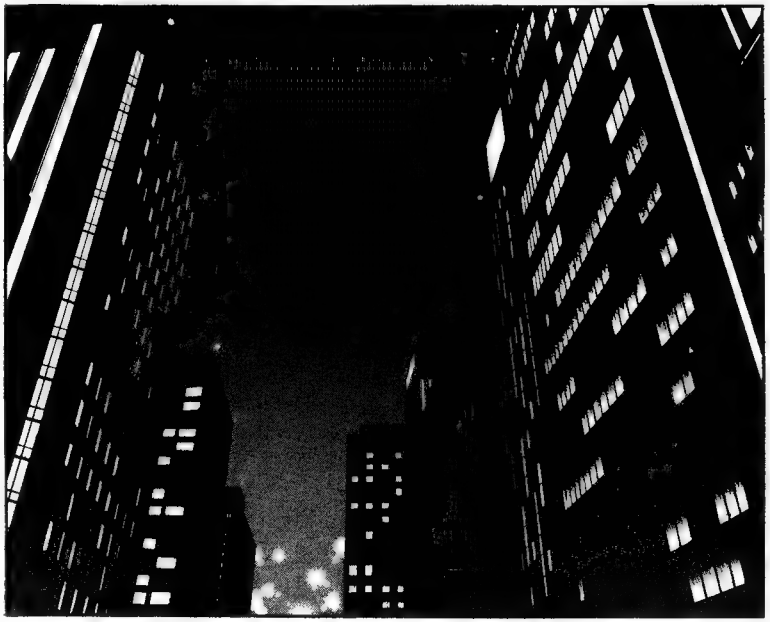
ナナハチ







I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
SKULL MAN!
I TRY.
MY BODY DOUBLE.
SCARED TO MEET ME FACE TO FACE, EH?
HEH HEH
SO IT WAS YOU.
I LIKED YOUR MESS-AGE.
DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO ATTACK ME NOW.
THIS IS AN ANDROID BODY.
JUST A PUPPET THAT I'M OPERATING BY REMOTE CONTROL. MY MOUTHPIECE, SO TO SPEAK.
I GOT IT.

ADMITTEDLY, MINE DON'T LAST AS LONG...
WELL, MY ANDROID BODY IS ALMOST AS PERFECT AS YOUR ORGANIC SUITS.
WHADYA WANT WITH ME?
OKAY, I GET YOUR POINT. SO CUT THE CRAP.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE TALKED FACE TO FACE.
DON'T BE SO GRUFF.
AH, RYUSEI CHISATO.

I SEE YOU HAVE A PROXY AS WELL.
NO, THIS IS SIMPLY *STYLE*.
IT'S ALL THE RAGE.
YOU SUGARCOAT IT BY CALLING THEM REINCARNATED.
...TO *CONTROL* AS *YOU* WANT.
I APPLAUD YOU. GENETICALLY ENGINEERING NEW BODIES FROM CORPSES...
YOUR INGENUITY IS INCREDIBLE.
AND THE KICKER IS THAT YOU FEEL *GUILTY* ABOUT USING THE DEAD BODIES.
BUT THERE'S *NO REAL LIFE* IN THEM.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I STAYED WITH YOU... AS A CHILD?
BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU.
IT WAS SO LONG AGO. YOU'VE PROBABLY FORGOTTEN.
IT WAS THAT GIFT THAT ROBBED YOU OF YOUR PARENTS... IT WAS THAT GIFT THAT ROBBED YOU OF YOURSELF.
YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT OF IT AS A CURSE.
YOUR FAMILY WAS EXTREMELY GIFTED.
BUT OFTEN THE GIFTED ABHOR THEIR GIFTS.

EXCEPT FOR YOUR EYES! THEY'RE DIFFERENT!
AFLAME WITH ANGER AND HATRED!
SAME YOUTHFUL FACE.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.

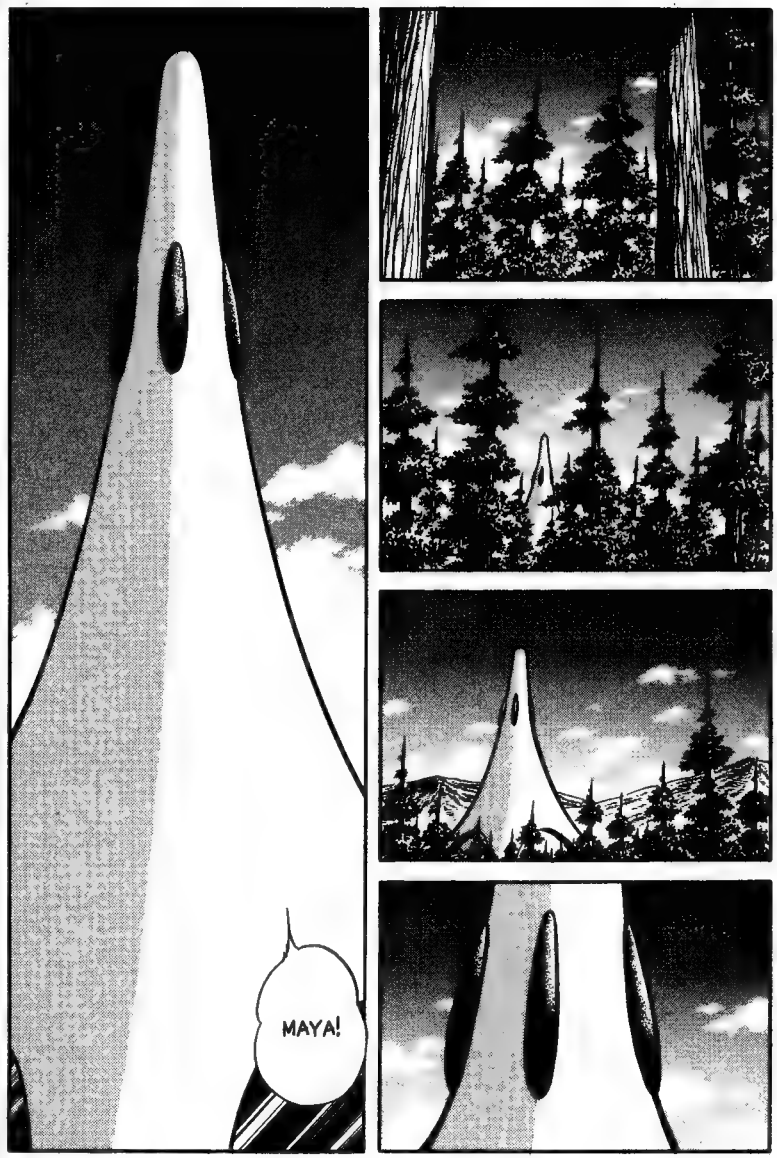
IT MUST BE LONELY FOR YOUR SISTER, WITH ONLY A CORPSE LEFT IN HER LIFE.
BUT I CAN HELP.
CAN YOU TRUST ME?
YOU...
WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
HA HA
SORRY. I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT YET.
THIS ISN'T *YOUR* IDEA. *WHO* ORDERED YOU TO FIND ME?

...IS *STILL ALIVE*, DOESN'T IT?
THIS MEANS THAT SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE DEAD...
HOW DO YOU DEFINE *DEATH*, A BEING SUCH AS YOURSELF?
WHAT'S *"DEAD"* MEAN?
DEAD?
DON'T GET CUTE WITH ME!!
...BUT HAVEN'T YOU DIED *AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE*?
YOU'RE ALIVE TODAY...
WELL, THINK ABOUT THIS.
YOU'VE COME BACK FROM THE SWEET HEREAFTER. YOU CAME BACK TO FIND SOMEONE.

HA
HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA
HAoooooo

DOES ANY OF THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?
THAT SOMEONE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, WAITING FOR YOU.

YEAH.


MAYA!

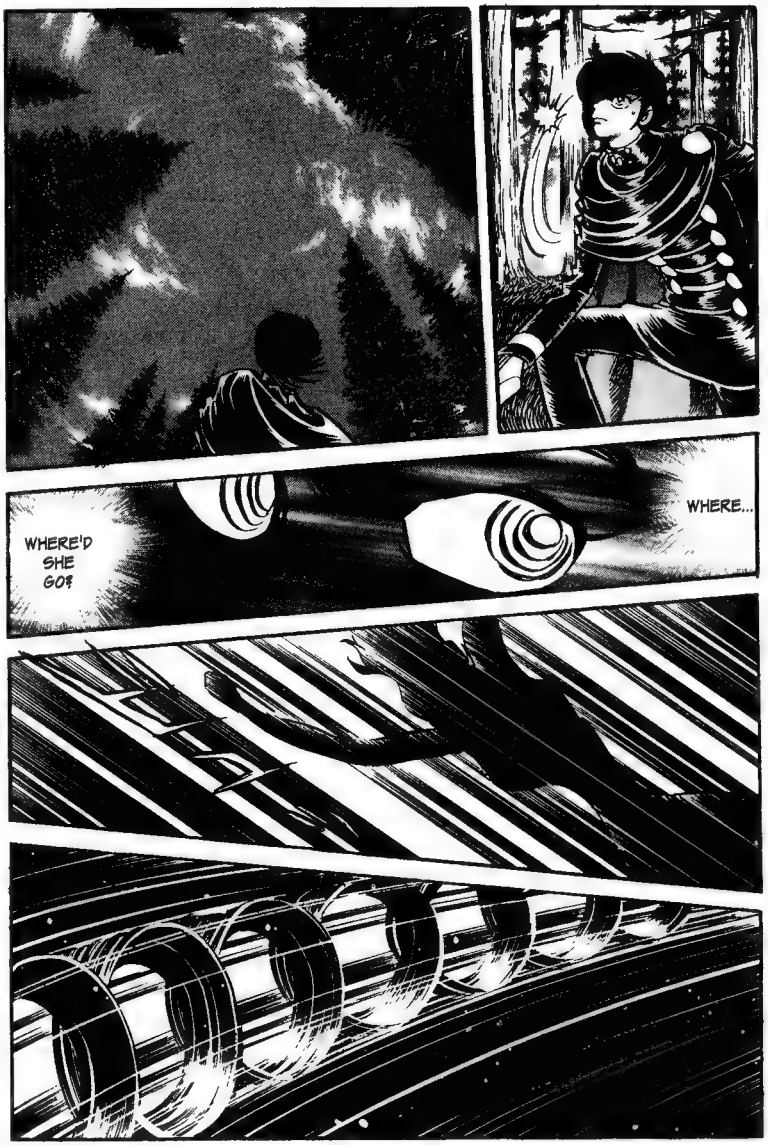
...YES...
...YOU FEEL IT?
THEY'RE HERE...
...CLOSE ...ALMOST HERE...
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE RETURNED. YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE DRAWN INTO THIS BATTLE.

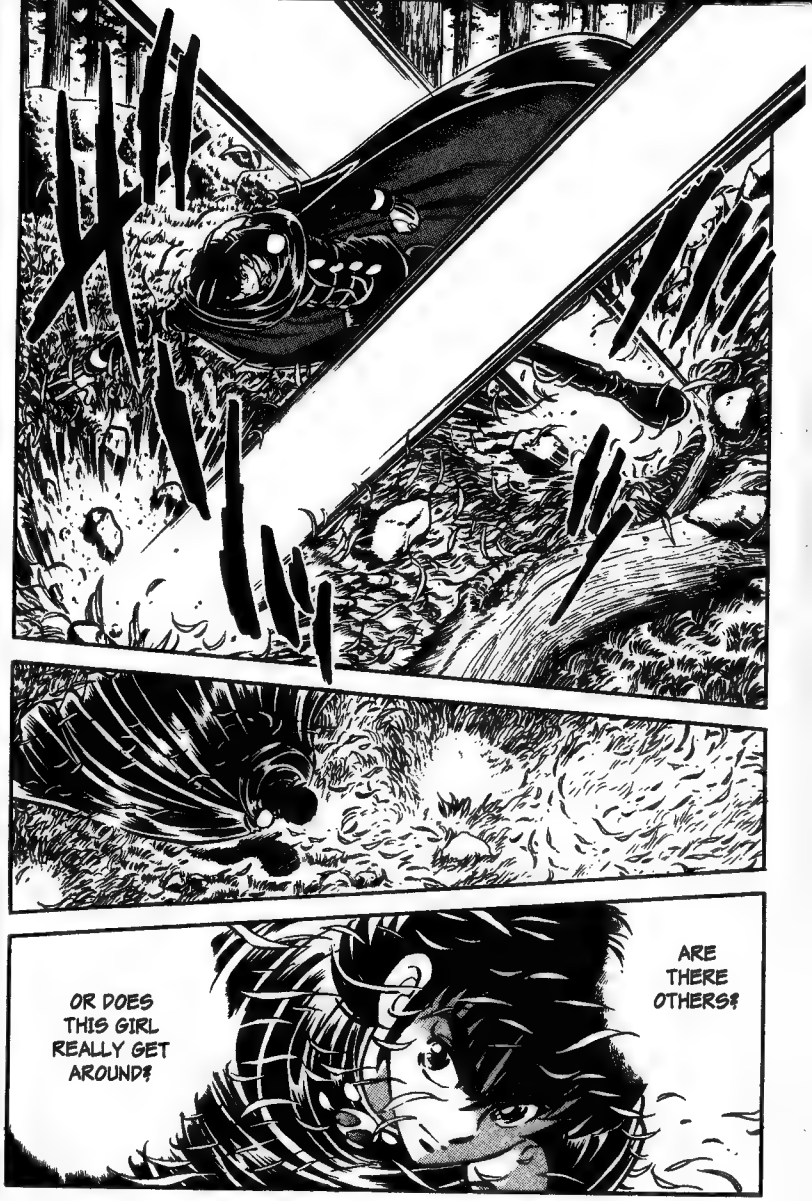
CH. 45

宣戦布告
DECLARATION OF WAR

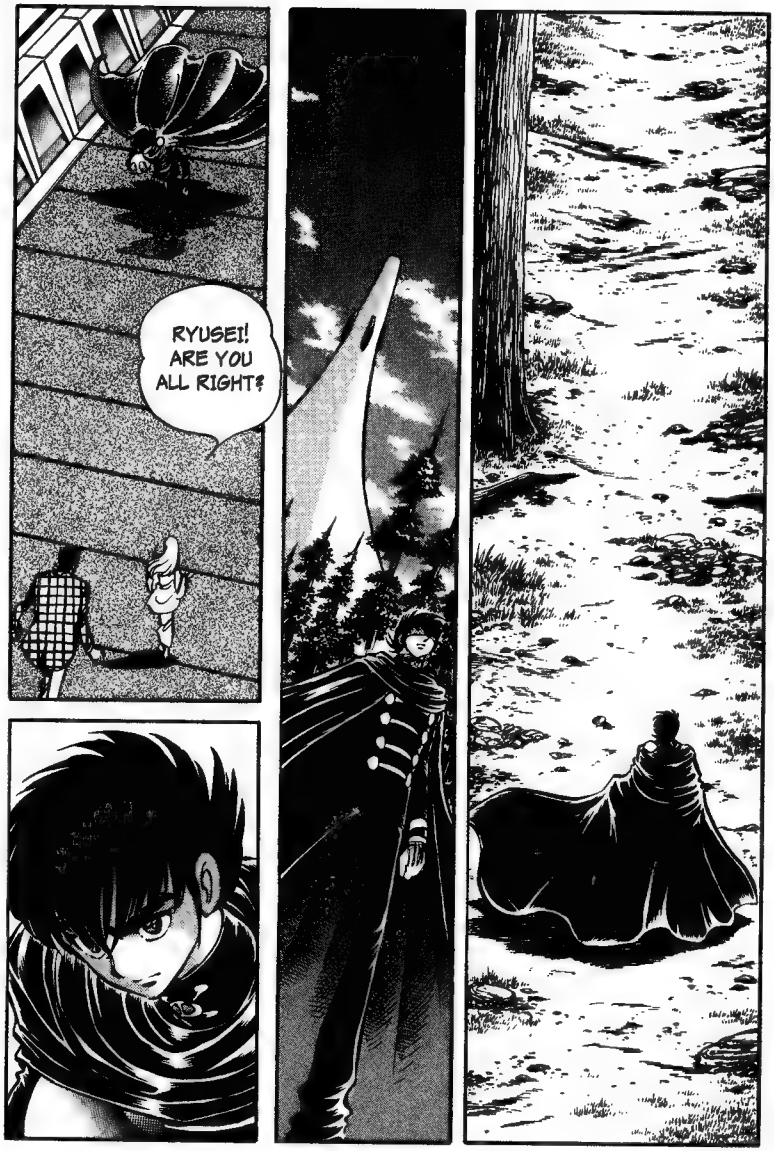
THEY'RE DONE.
WERE THEY JUST SCOUTING ME?
IF THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK, WHY DON'T THEY JUST DO IT?

HELLO, HONEY.
TELL RASPUTIN HIS TASTE IN SOLDIERS HAS GOTTEN BETTER.


WHERE...
WHERE'D SHE GO?


ARE THERE OTHERS?
OR DOES THIS GIRL REALLY GET AROUND?

SO LONG, CUTIE.


RYUSEI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

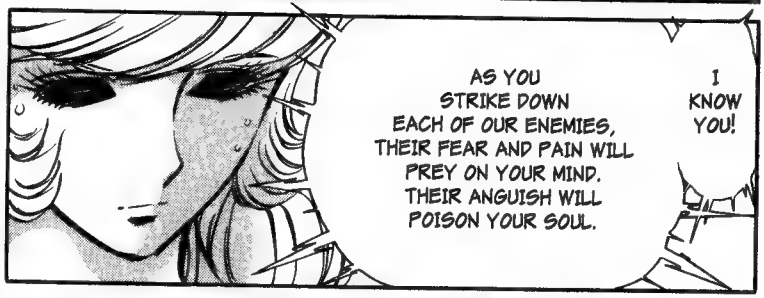
THE BASTARDS ARE PLANNING AN ALL-OUT ATTACK.
YEAH, I'M OKAY...
BUT THE GAME IS GETTING A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING.
THEY NEARLY RAN ME DOWN WITH A FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR.
WELL, THIS IS ONE PREY THEY WON'T FIND BLEEDING IN THE WOODS.
TEASING ME BEFORE THE KILL.
I MUST SAY, I LIKE THEIR STYLE.
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO AVOID THIS BATTLE?
OH, RYUSEI!
NO, I KNOW WE CAN'T.
HOW? THEY'RE ALREADY HERE?
BUT THERE MUST BE AN ALTERNATIVE TO FIGHTING.
D'YA THINK WE CAN JUST RUN AWAY?

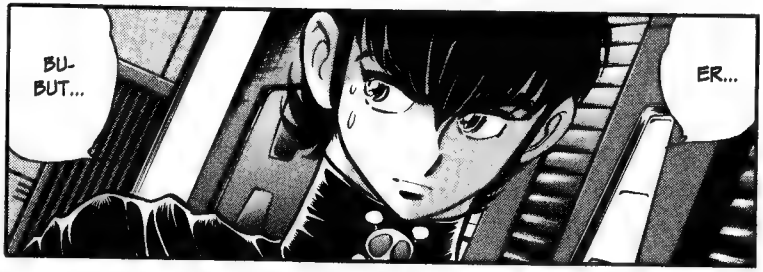
EVERYONE THAT DIES WILL MURDER A LITTLE PART OF YOU UNTIL NOTHING REMAINS.
PROMISE ME TO PUNISH THE EVIL ONES...
...BUT DO NOT KILL THEM!

.....

AND EVEN IF YOU BEAT THEM, BROTHER, YOU STILL LOSE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
WE'RE WAY BEYOND THAT NOW.
THEY'VE THROWN DOWN THE GAUNTLET AND I'M GOING TO WRAP IT AROUND THEIR THROATS.

HUH?


AS YOU STRIKE DOWN EACH OF OUR ENEMIES, THEIR FEAR AND PAIN WILL PREY ON YOUR MIND. THEIR ANGUISH WILL POISON YOUR SOUL.
I KNOW YOU!

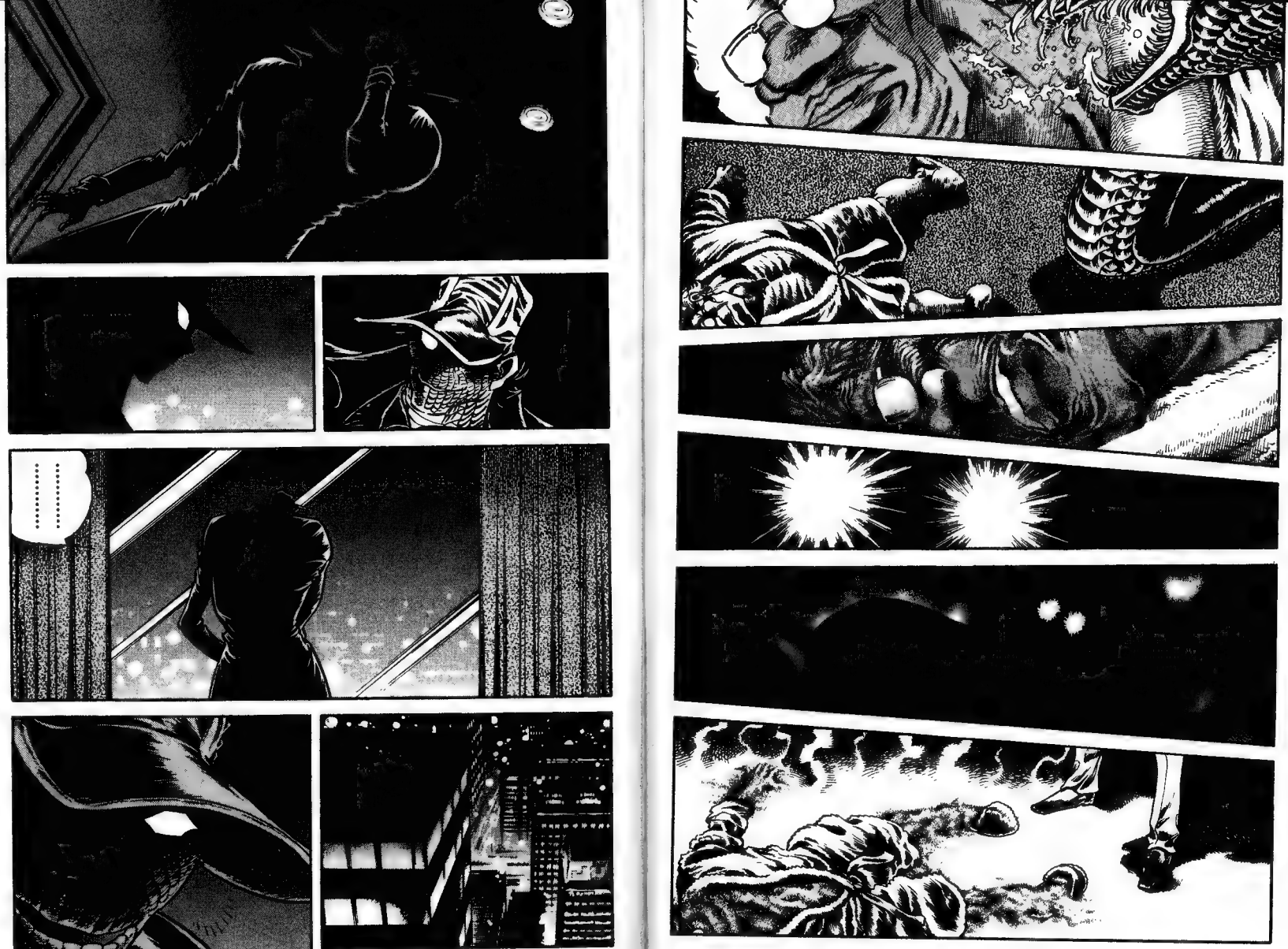

BU-BUT...
ER...

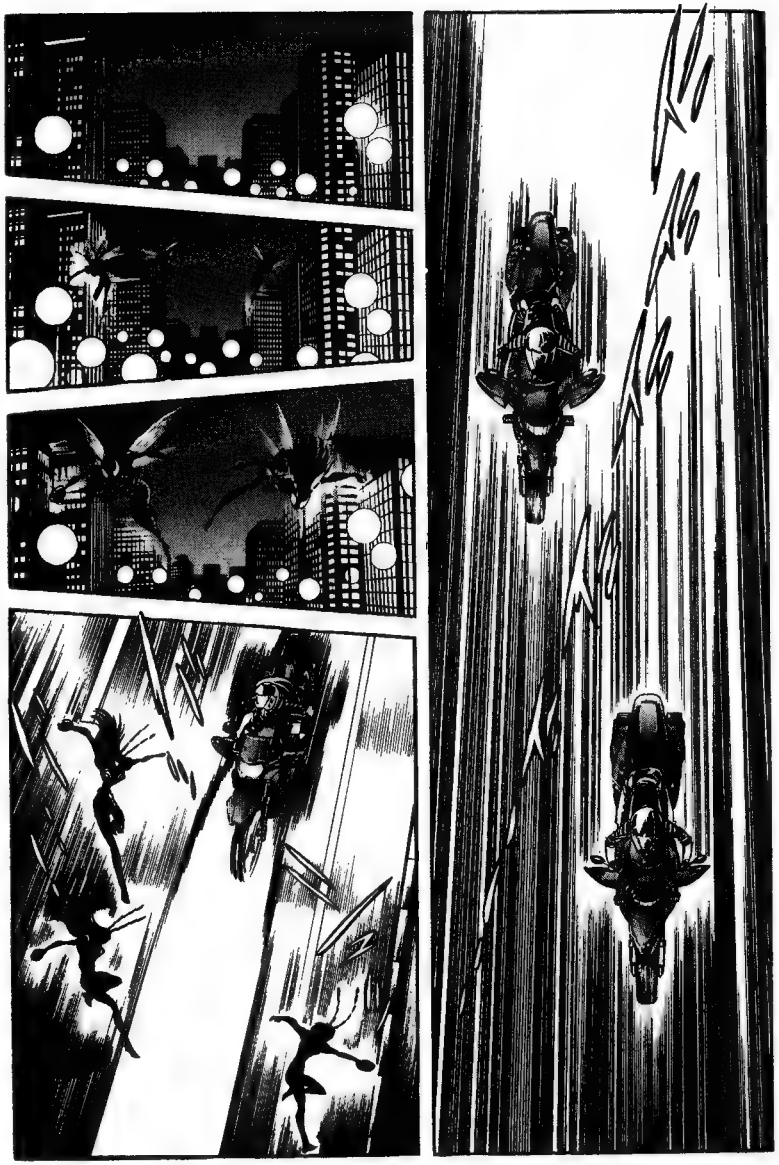
WHO...
...ARE YOU?!
WH...

GE... GET AWAY WITH...
YOU'LL NE... NEVER...
I'M WARNING YOU...
I...
YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH A LOT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH.
WHAT TRIPE.
NO, I...
I...
GOVERNOR...

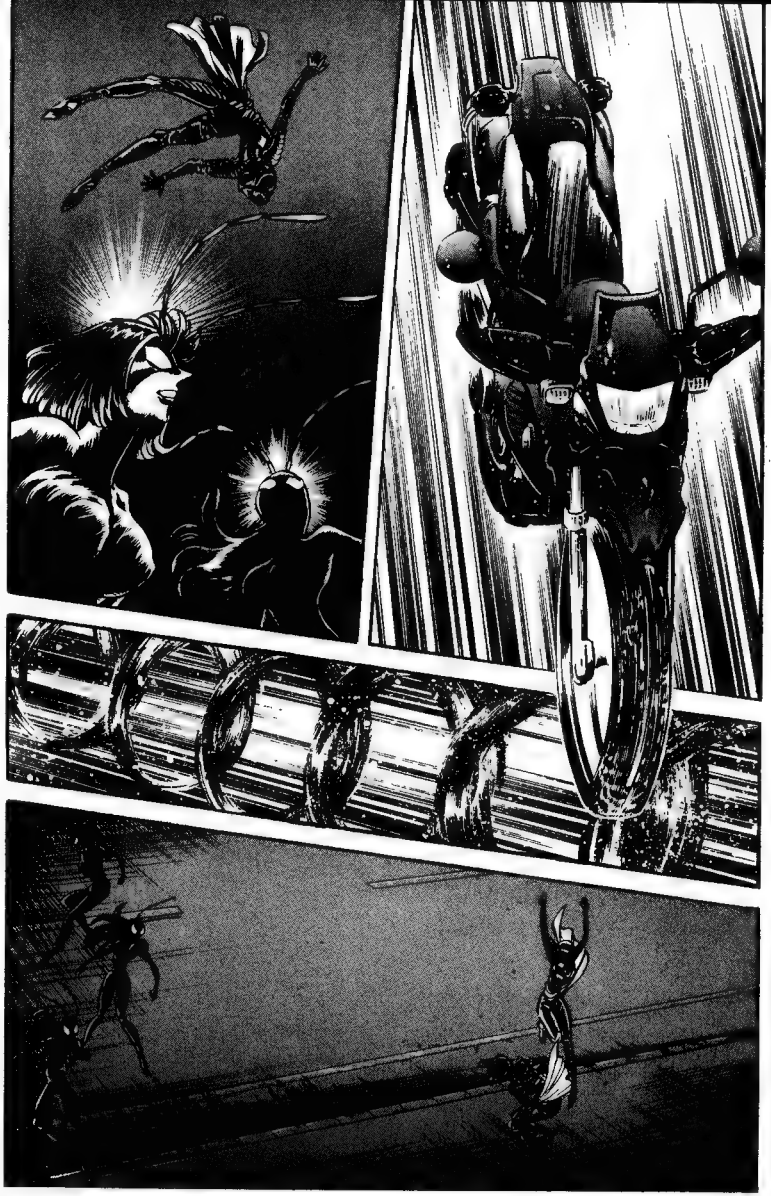
AH...
I...I...
YOU'RE NOT WORTHY OF A SINGLE ONE, GOVERNER.
AH, THE CITY LIGHTS SHINE RESPLENDANTLY AGAINST THE BLACK OF NIGHT.
...ABOUT SHIMIZU.
WE CAN TALK...
HEY... MAYBE...
LET'S SAY...
AND DON'T THINK ABOUT THIS AS REVENGE.
NO. NOT NOW.
SO THAT ALL OF OUR BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS CAN BLOOM WITHOUT BEING STRANGLED BY THE WEEDS!
I'M GARDENING. FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

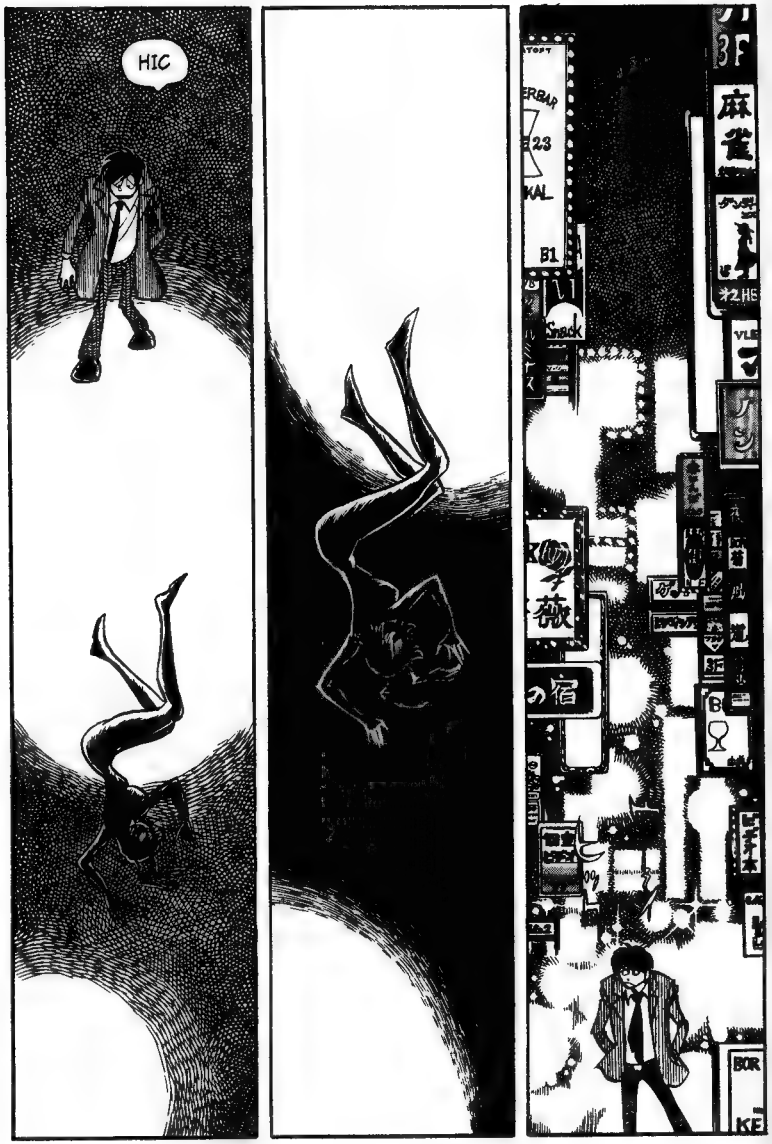
YOU ARE A DESPICABLE MAN.
...GREAT MEN ARE A RARE BREED.
MANY BELIEVE THEY ARE GREAT, AND LEARN SOMETIME LATER, WHEN THEIR HUBRIS HAS SEDUCED THEM, THAT THE LESSONS OF HUMANITY HAVE BEEN LOST.
AND I WORKED FOR YOU LOYALLY.
I WASTED MYSELF ON YOU.
YOU...
MONSTER!!





AH, RIGHT ON TIME... WHAT?



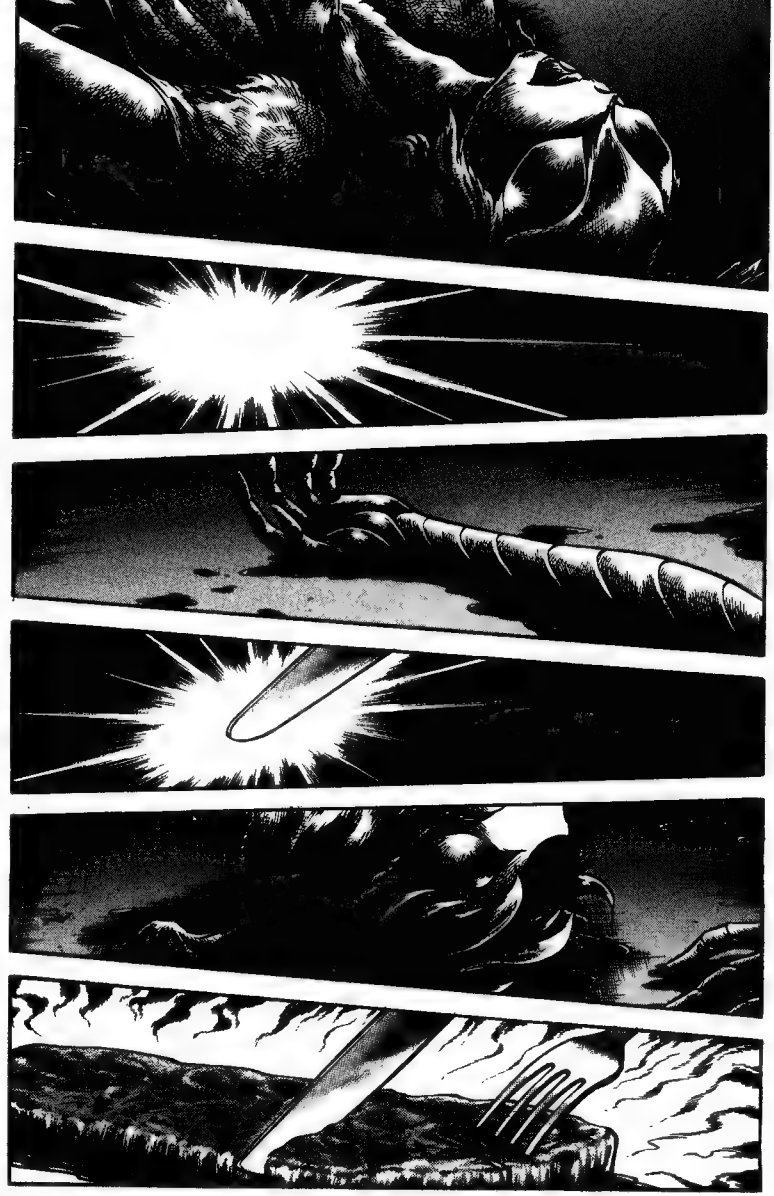

HIC
3F
麻雀
Snack
B1
薇
の宿
BAR
KE

WELLLL NOW...
SO YOU'RE THE LEGION OF WASP WITCHES THAT BETRAYED US TO RYUSEI CHISATO.
CONSIDERATE OF YOU TO COME OUT IN THE OPEN AND SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF BATTING YOUR NEST.

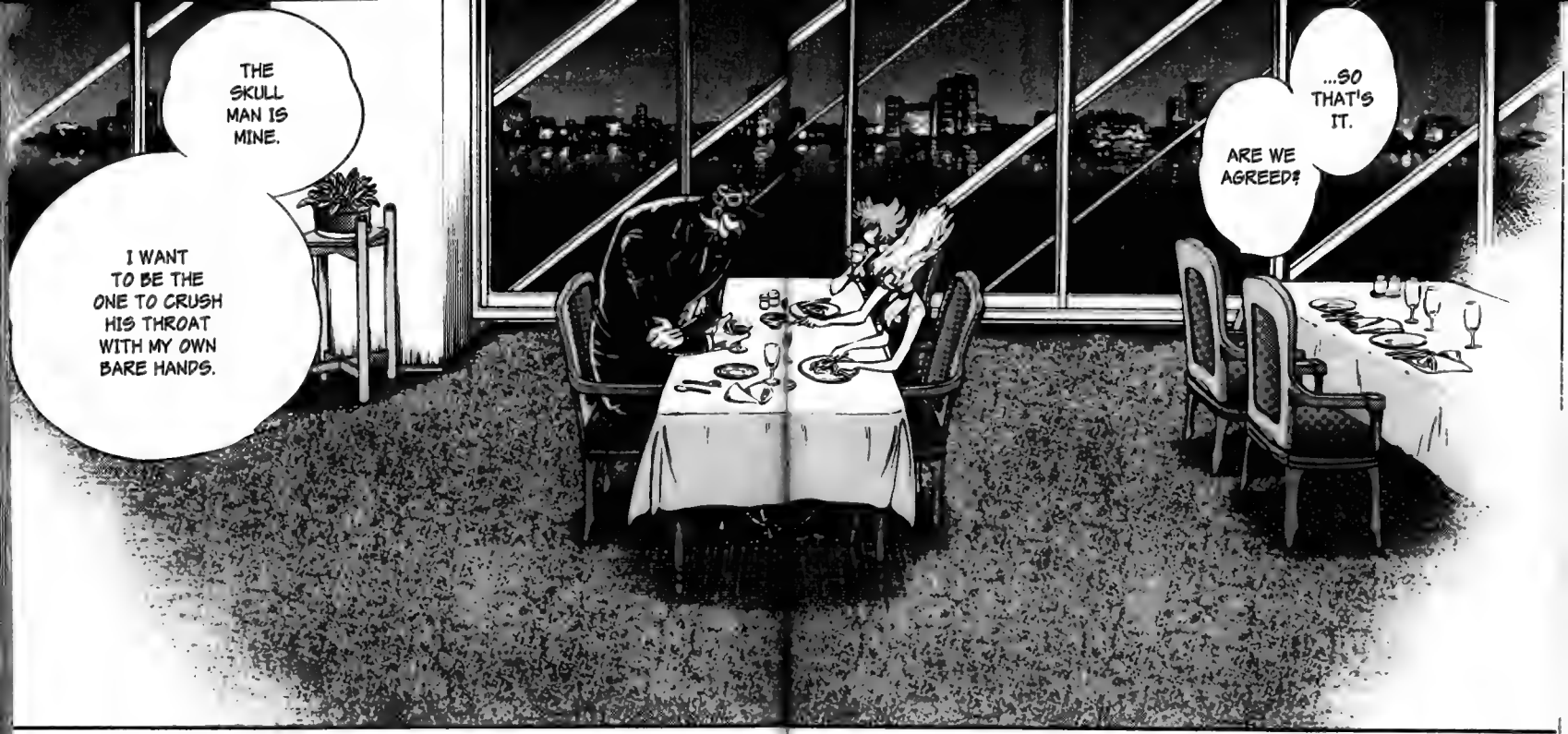
CH. 46

コブラ男VS女ライダー

THE COBRAMAN VS RIDERWOMEN

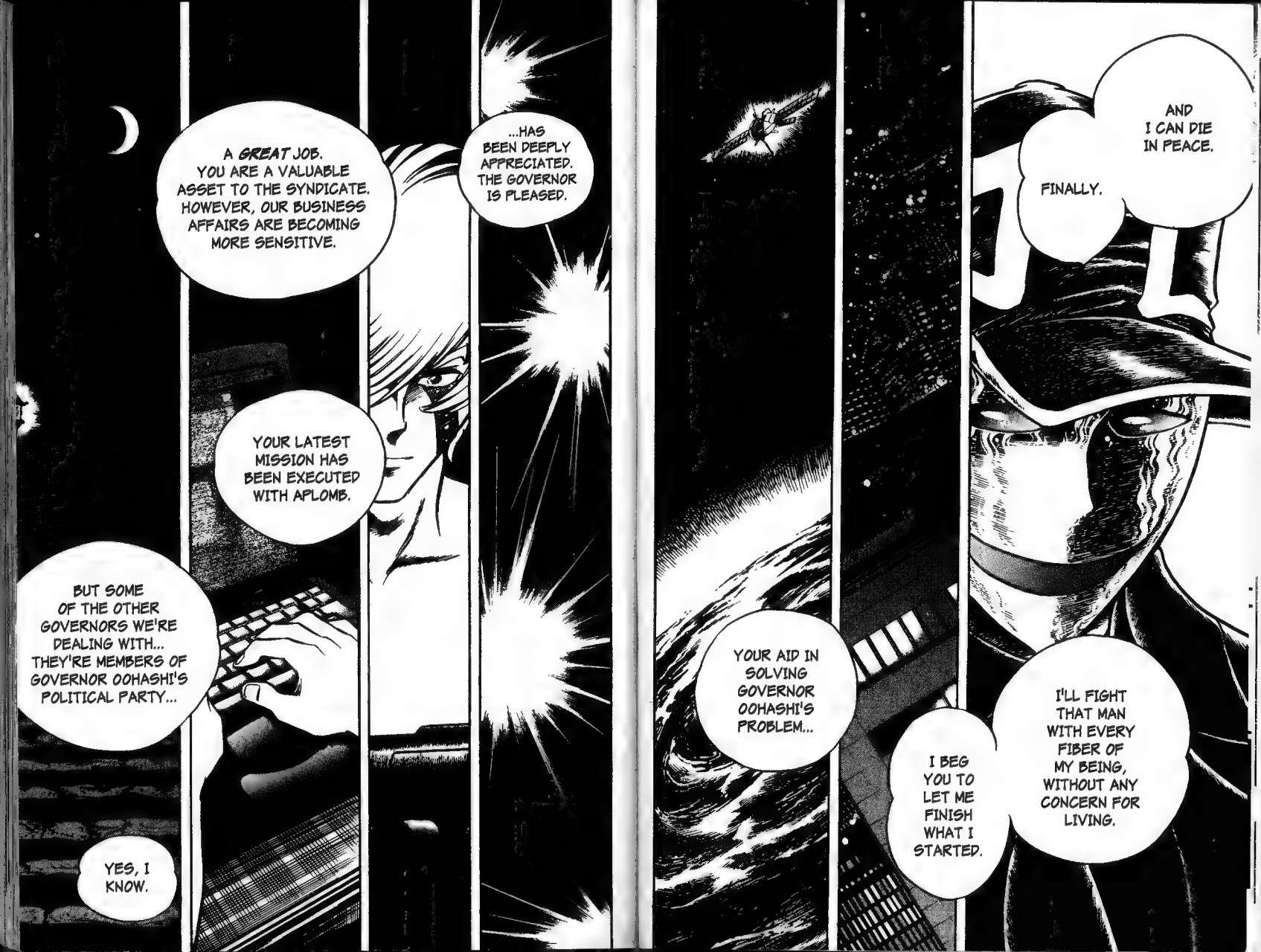


CA...CA... CALL TH' COPS!!
MY GAWD...
OH...


THE SKULL MAN IS MINE.
I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO CRUSH HIS THROAT WITH MY OWN BARE HANDS.
ARE WE AGREED?
...SO THAT'S IT.

MY SERVICE WILL BE *COMPLETE.*
AND THEN IT WILL BE OVER.

...I WON'T NEED THESE POWERS ANYMORE.
AND THEN...


A GREAT JOB. YOU ARE A VALUABLE ASSET TO THE SYNDICATE. HOWEVER, OUR BUSINESS AFFAIRS ARE BECOMING MORE SENSITIVE.
...HAS BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATED. THE GOVERNOR IS PLEASED.
YOUR LATEST MISSION HAS BEEN EXECUTED WITH APLOMB.
BUT SOME OF THE OTHER GOVERNORS WE'RE DEALING WITH... THEY'RE MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR OOHASHI'S POLITICAL PARTY...
YES, I KNOW.
YOUR AID IN SOLVING GOVERNOR OOHASHI'S PROBLEM...
I BEG YOU TO LET ME FINISH WHAT I STARTED.
I'LL FIGHT THAT MAN WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING, WITHOUT ANY CONCERN FOR LIVING.
FINALLY.
AND I CAN DIE IN PEACE.

WE TRUST YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SOUND JUDGMENT, MR. RASPUTIN.
WE VALUE YOUR PLANNING AND YOUR GUMPTION.
IT'S JUST THAT, CONSIDERING HOW VOLITILE THE SITUATION HAS BECOME, WE'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T HURT ANYONE WHOM WE MAY WANT TO USE IN THE FUTURE.
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY. THIS REQUIRES A DELICATE TOUCH.
PLEASE, COUNT ON ME.
BULL-SHIT...
EXCELLENT! THANK YOU!
カタカタ
カタカタ

HEY, BABES, WASS HAPP-ENIN'?
THE REAL PROBLEM IS MAKING HEBIZUKA UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION AND HAVING HIM DO MY BIDDING.
WHAT A MESS.
THERE'S ONE THING THAT EVERY GENETIC FREAK HAS IN COMMON.

...IT'S AN UNSTOPPABLE MANIA. IT MAKES THEM DESTROY ANYTHING THAT GETS IN THEIR WAY.
IT CAN BE FRIGHTENING.
THE MORE DIFFICULT THEIR GOAL, THE MORE RUTHLESS THEY ARE IN ACHIEVING IT.
IT CONSUMES THEM LIKE AN ADDICTION.
THE OBSESSION VARIES WITH EACH OF THEM. BUT NO MATTER WHAT IT IS...
IT'S AN...
...OBSESSIVE *COMPULSION* TOWARD ONE PURPOSE THAT DRIVES THEM FORWARD.

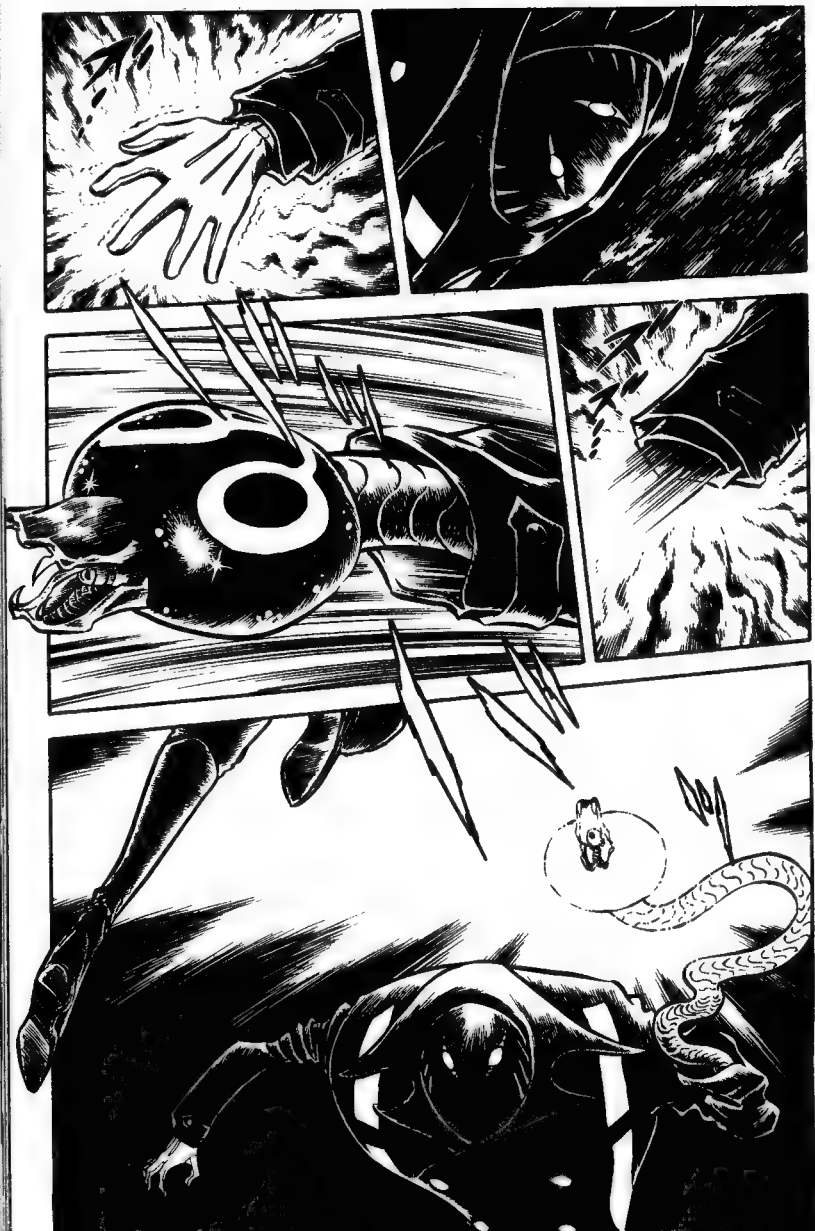
BUT THERE IS SUCH A FINE LINE BETWEEN PASSIONATE COMMITMENT TO A SINGLE PURPOSE AND DESTRUCTION. AND THE LINE IS CROSSED OFTEN.
THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO CONTROL EVERYBODY AND EVERYTHING. AND THEY USUALLY DESTROY THAT WHICH THEY HOPE TO OBTAIN. THEIR INJURED EGOS, SCARRED IN THE PAST BY A CRUEL OR UNFORTUNATE LIFE, BURY THEIR HUMAN CAPACITY FOR COMPASSION AND LEAVE THEMSELVES CAVITIES; VACUUMS THAT MUST FILL THEMSELVES WITH THE SOULS OF OTHERS.
IS DESTRUCTION... BEAUTIFUL?
OH, NO!
IT'S AN UGLY FORCE.
IT IS A BEAUTIFUL KIND OF MYOPIC.
IT DOESN'T COMPARE TO THE BALANCED REASON OF A HUMAN MIND.
THAT COMPULSION EVENTUALLY CAUSES THEM TO SELF-DESTRUCT. DESTROYING EVERYTHING AROUND THEM AS WELL.

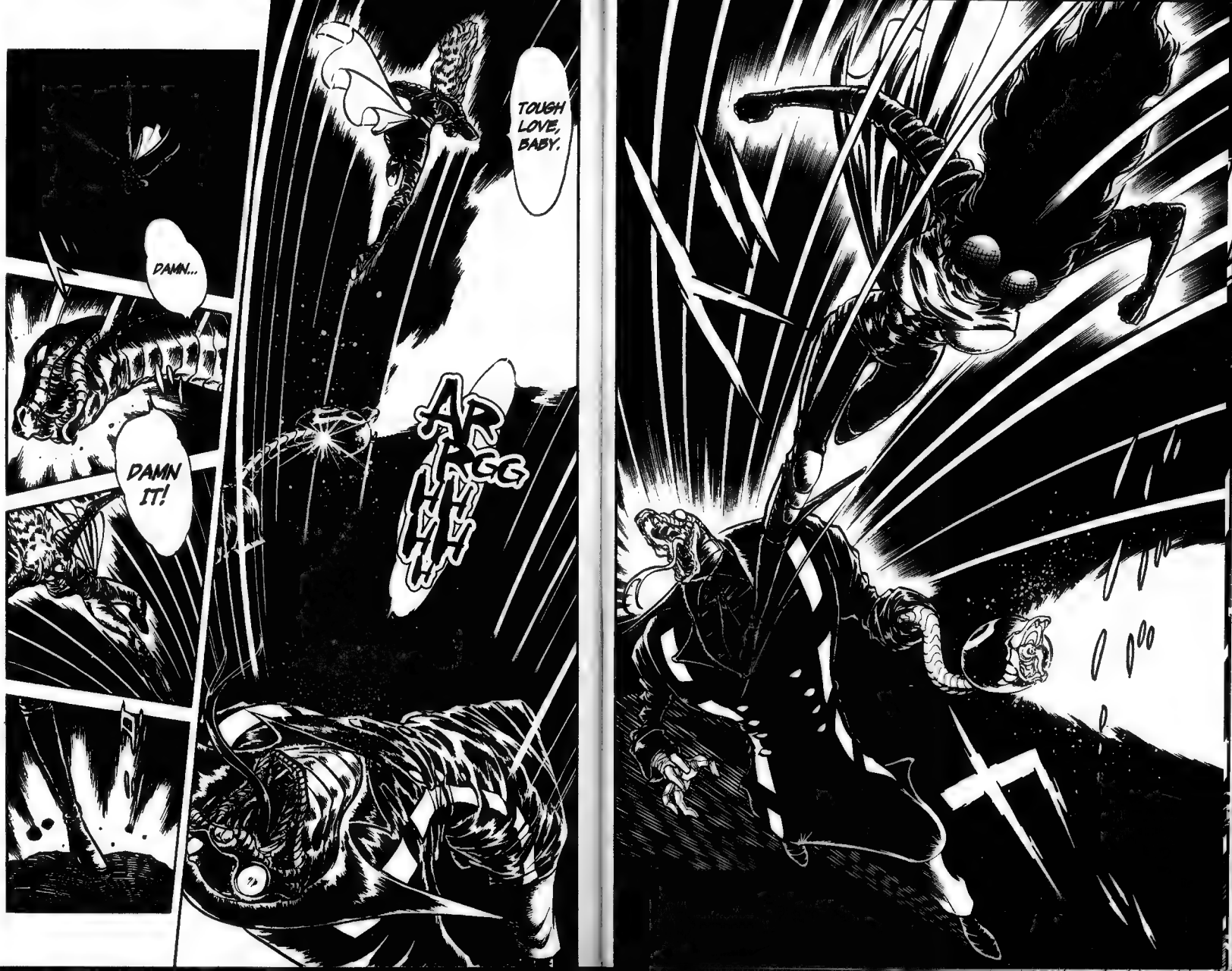
I DON'T...
YOU SEE, THEIR THIRST FOR POWER OVER OTHERS...
...PUSHES THEM TO LOFTIER AND LOFTIER HEIGHTS. UNTIL THEY FACE A BEING OF GREATER POWER, AGAINST WHICH THEY KNOW THEY CANNOT SURVIVE. THEY KNOW THEY WILL DIE. BUT THEY CAN'T HELP BUT PUSH ON.
HEBIZUKA...
...IS ONE OF THEM.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT SKULL MAN IS DESTROYED...
HE HAS TO DO IT *PERSONALLY.*

SO THAT'S IT.
YOU WON'T DO ME THIS ONE LITTLE FAVOR?
ONE MONTH... JUST GIVE ME ONE MONTH TO ATTACK SKULL MAN FIRST!!

WELL, IT'S TOO BAD...
...YOU GIRLS SEEMED LIKE SUCH DECENT PEOPLE.
I SEE.
THANK YOU...
...FOR SUCH A DELICIOUS DINNER!



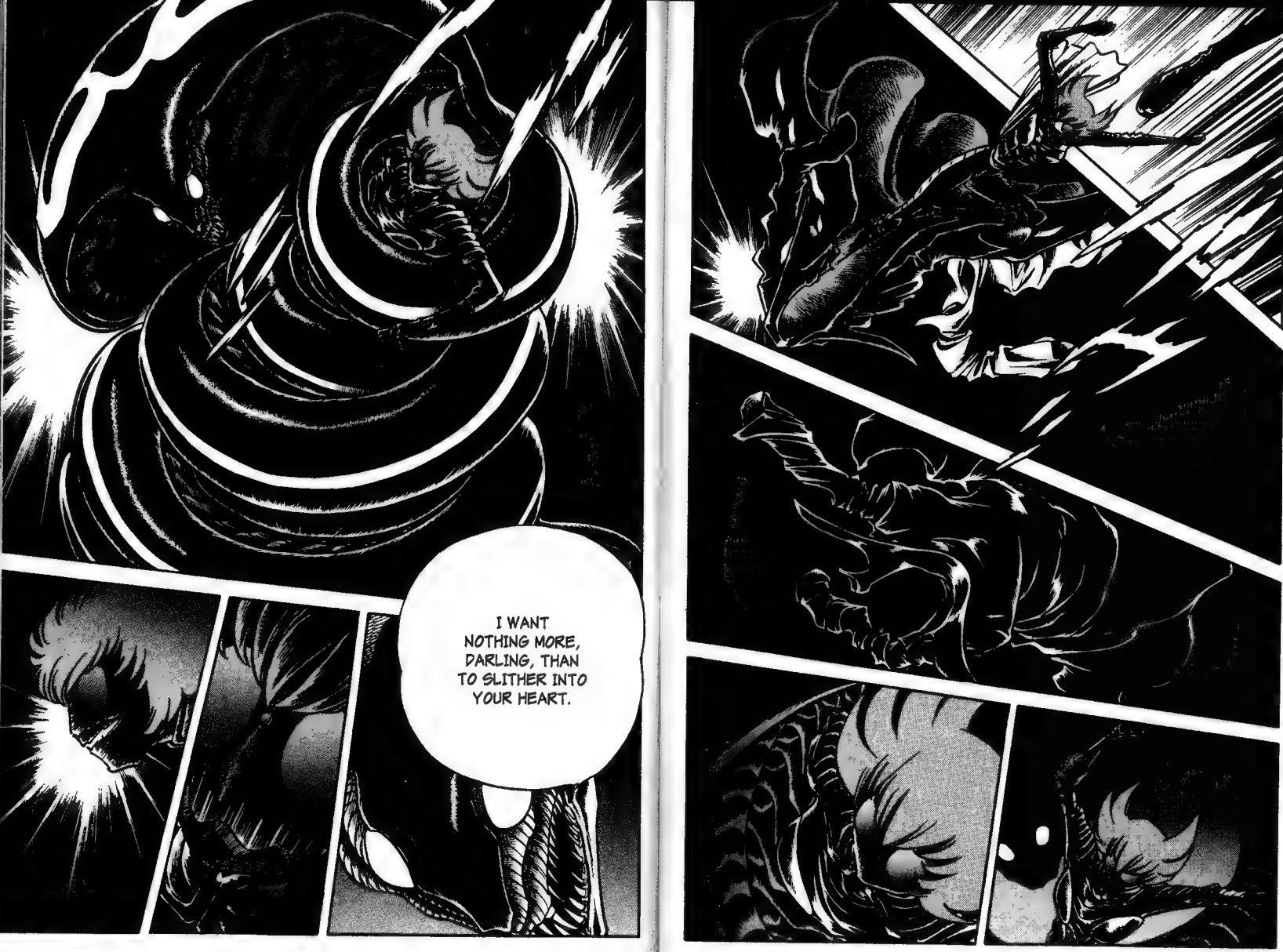

TOUGH LOVE, BABY.
DAMN...
DAMN IT!
ARGGH!!

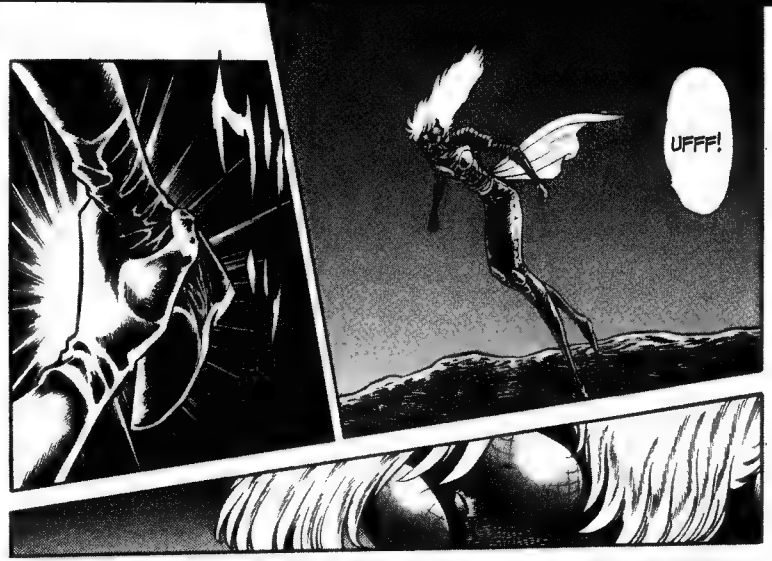
GOOD WORK.
BE SURE TO MAKE HIM HURT BADLY.
I PROMISE TO KEEP MY NOSE OUT OF IT. I'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.
WHAT?
...WITH HEBIZUKA?

CH. 47 THE LAST OF THE COBRA MAN

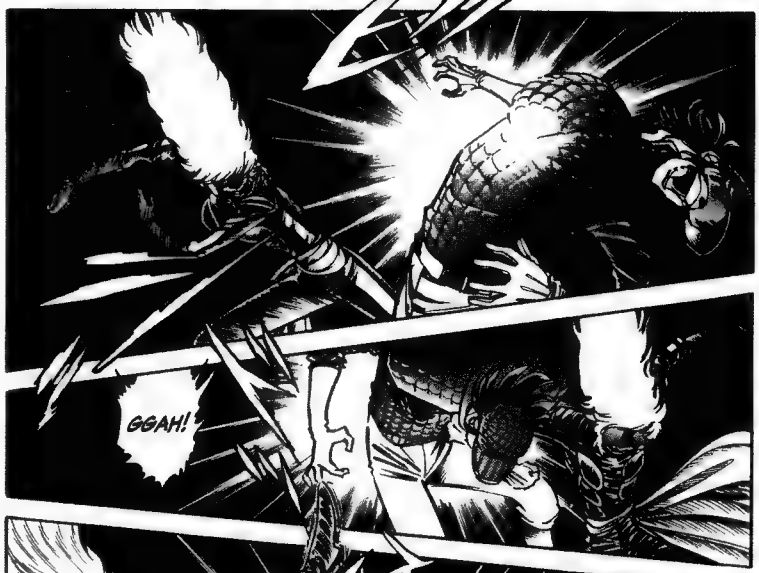
ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP OUT OF OUR WAY?
WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
SO, IT'S UP TO YOU.
WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WALK AWAY WITH NO HARD FEELINGS.
NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS, WE'RE GOING TO KILL HIM, DON'T MAKE THE POOR MAN SUFFER.
AW, STOP BEING SO CRUEL, ALICE.

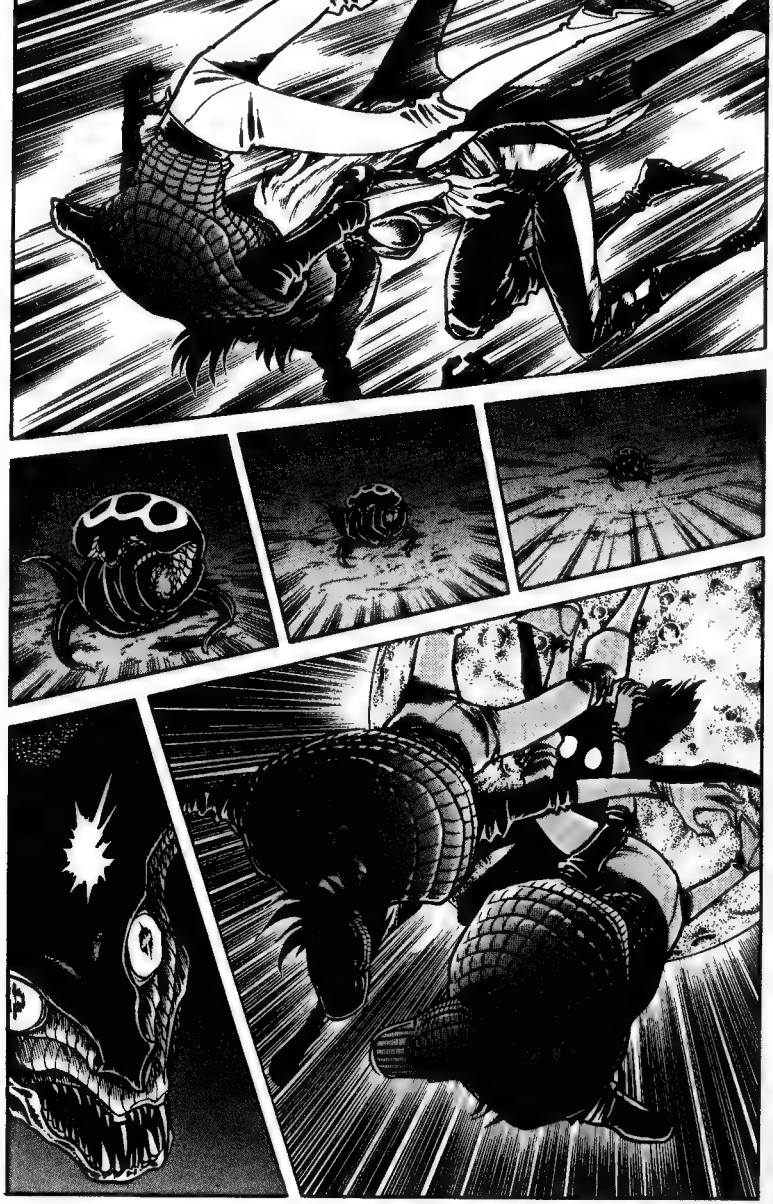
UHHH...
WELL NOW...
WE'VE JUST GOT PER-MISSION...
...TO MAKE YOU SCREAM!
...MR. RASPUTIN SAY THAT?!
DID...

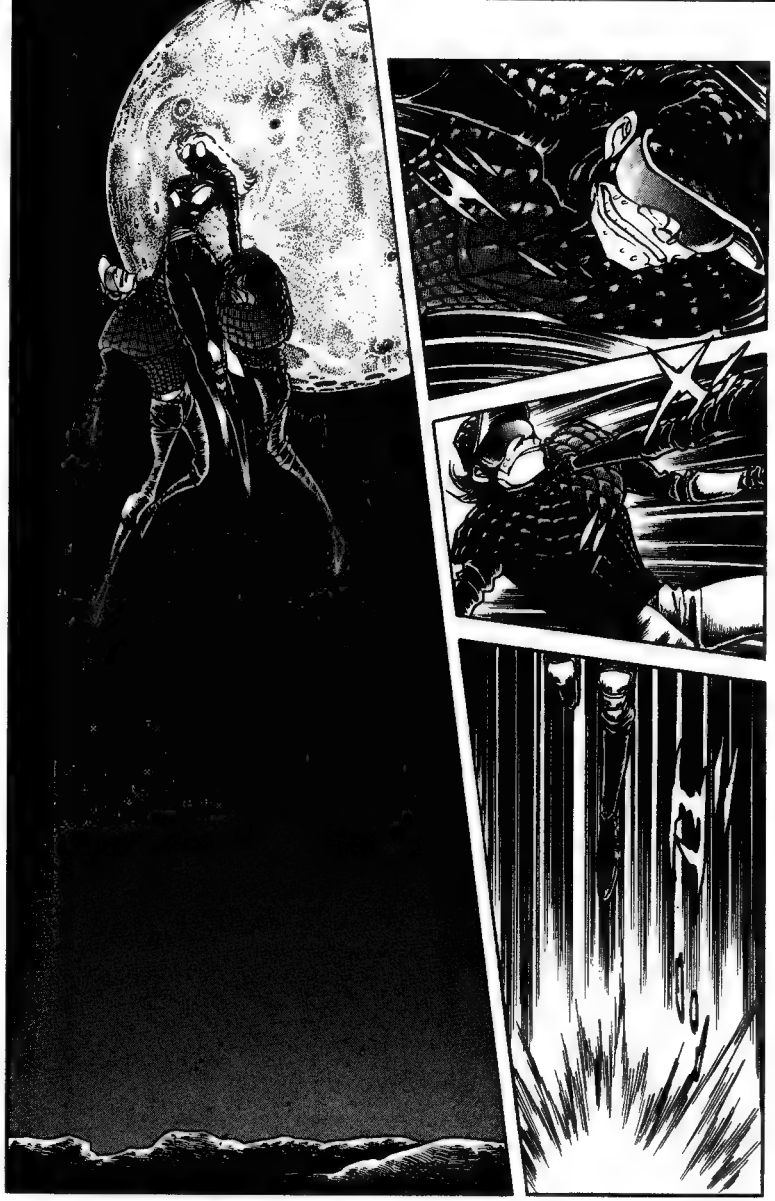

I WANT NOTHING MORE, DARLING, THAN TO SLITHER INTO YOUR HEART.

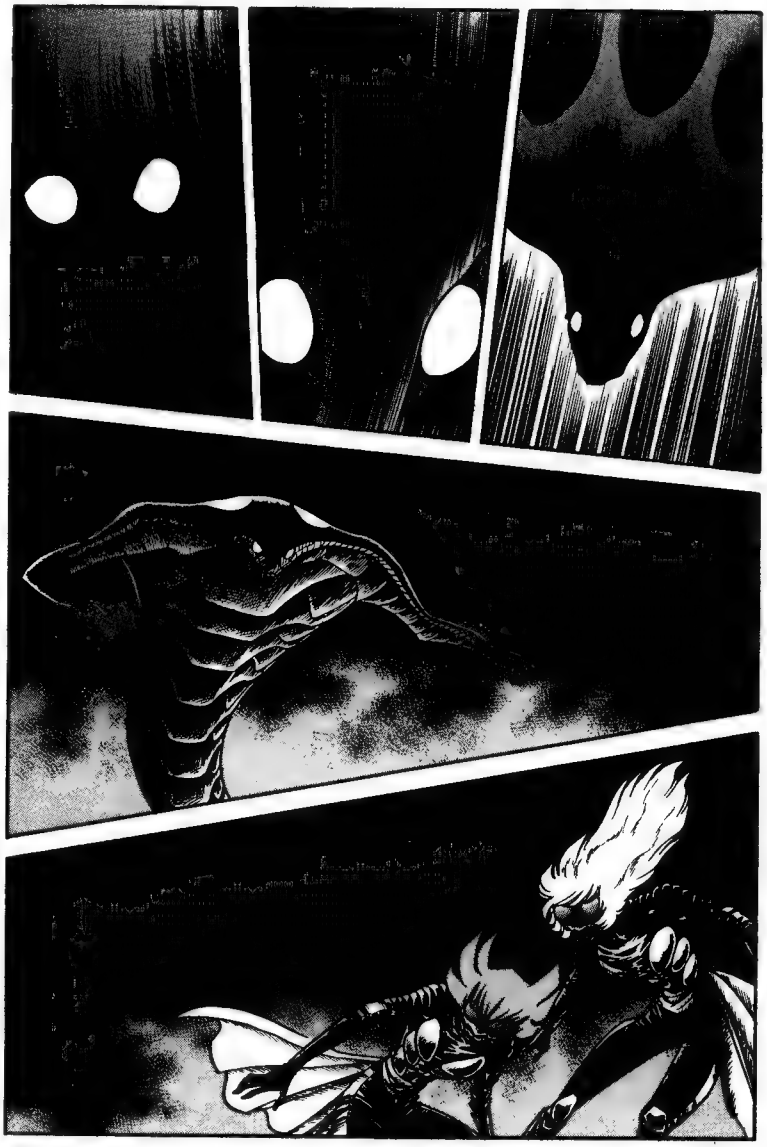

UFFF!

YUCK!

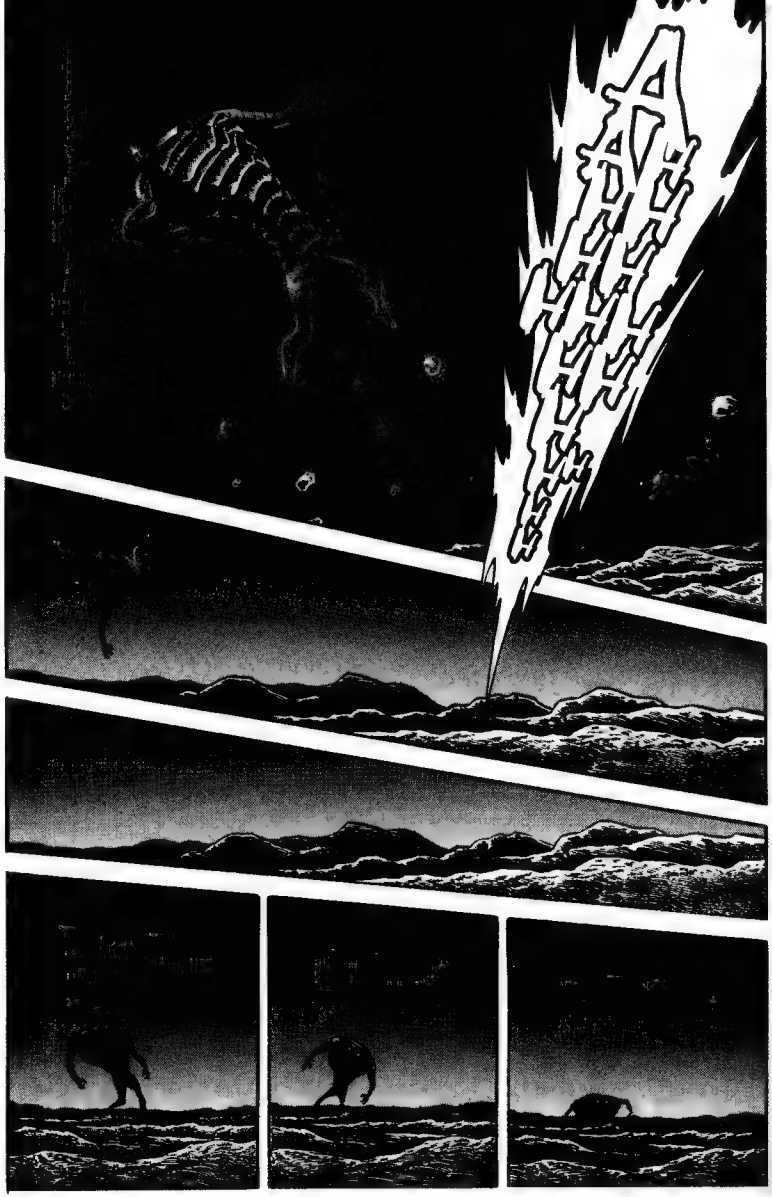

GGAH!



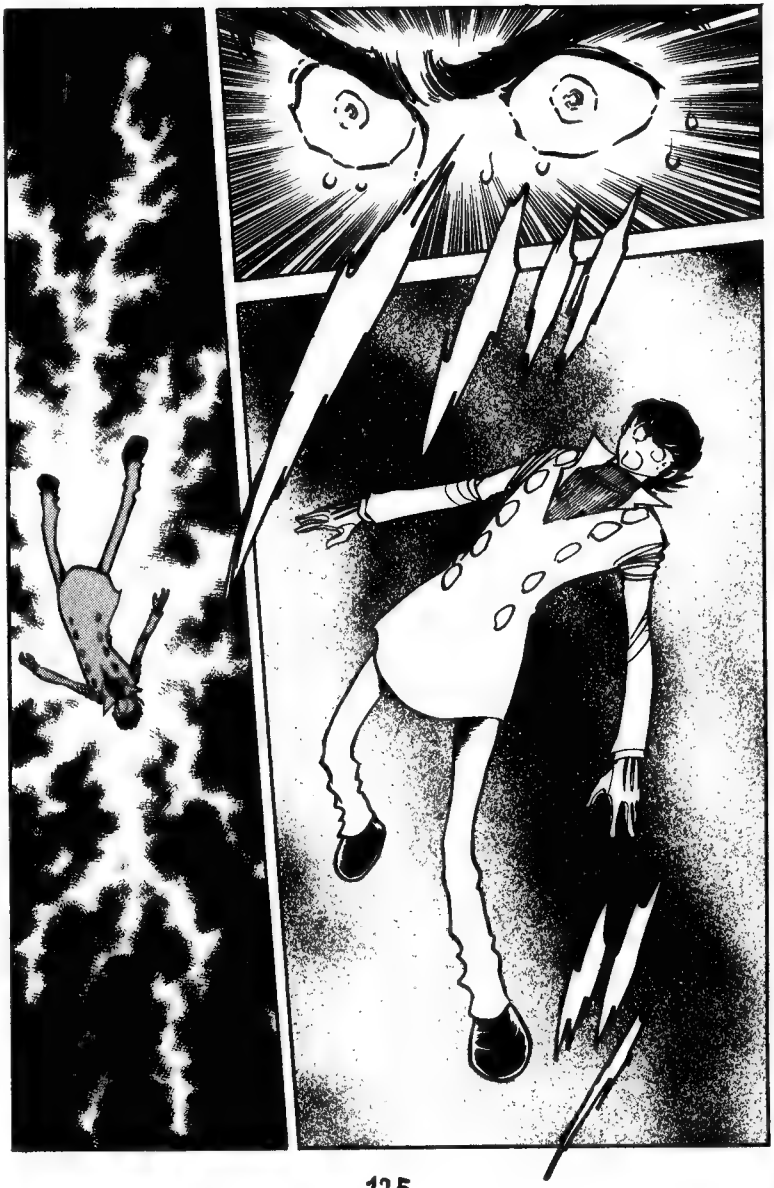




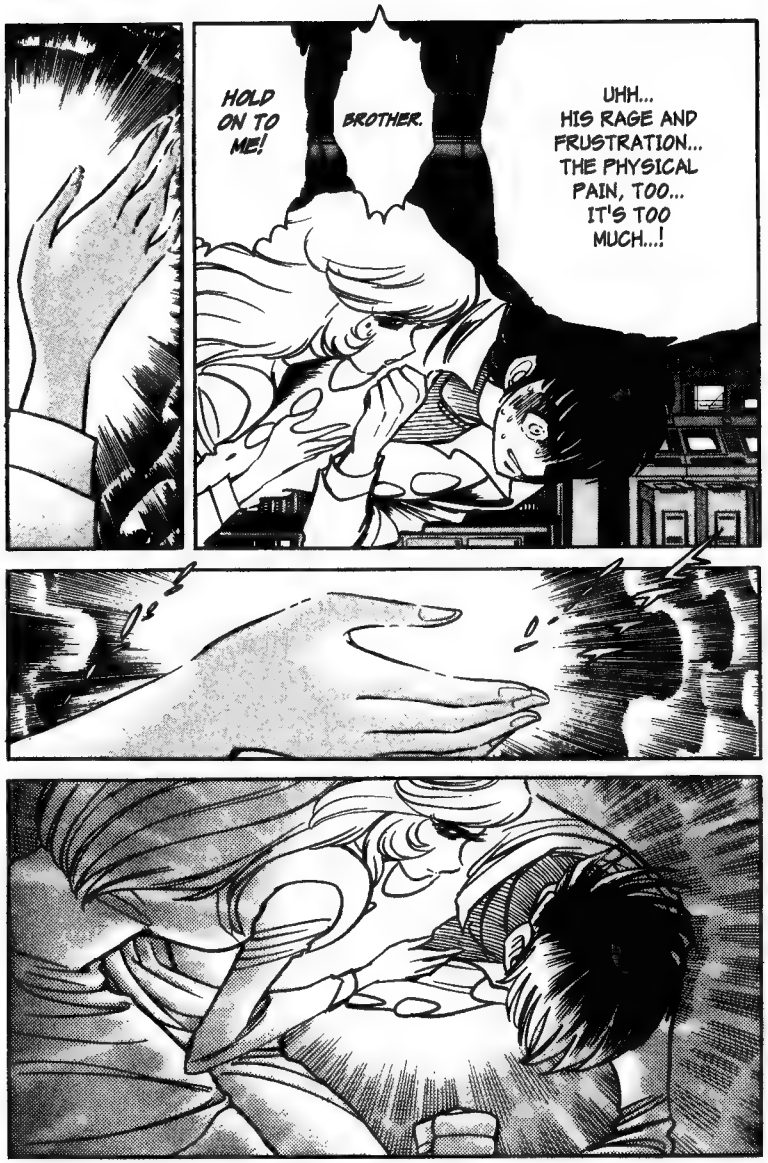
UGH!


AAHHHHH

HAH?!
BROTHER, WHAT IS IT?
UH...
I...I...!!
THIS FEELING... WHAT...?



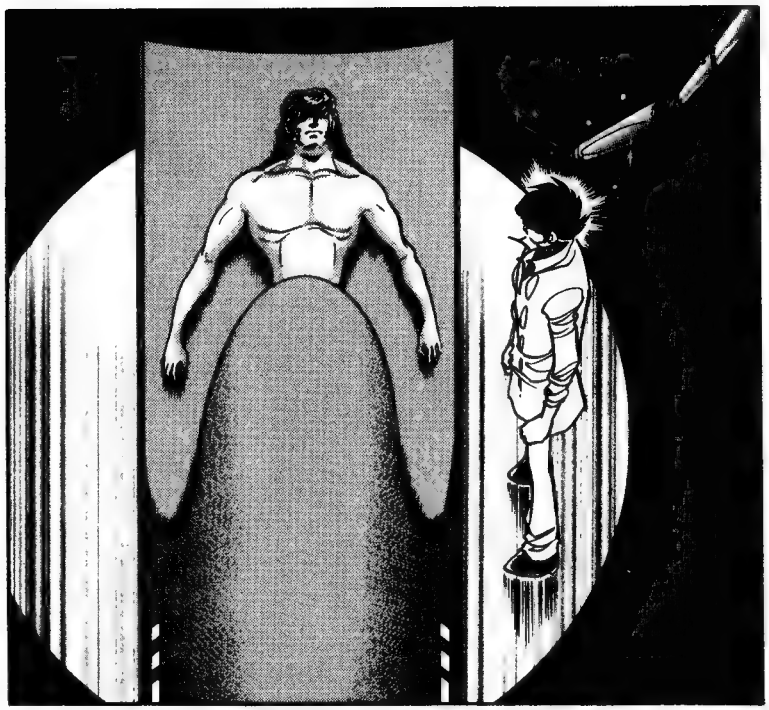
BROTHER!
.....!!
...HURT... BAD...
NO, WORSE... DEAD...!
HEBIZUKA'S DEAD!
BUT... WHO KILLED HIM? WHY...?
COBRA MAN. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME...!
HEBIZUKA?


HOLD ON TO ME!
BROTHER.
UHH... HIS RAGE AND FRUSTRATION... THE PHYSICAL PAIN, TOO... IT'S TOO MUCH...!

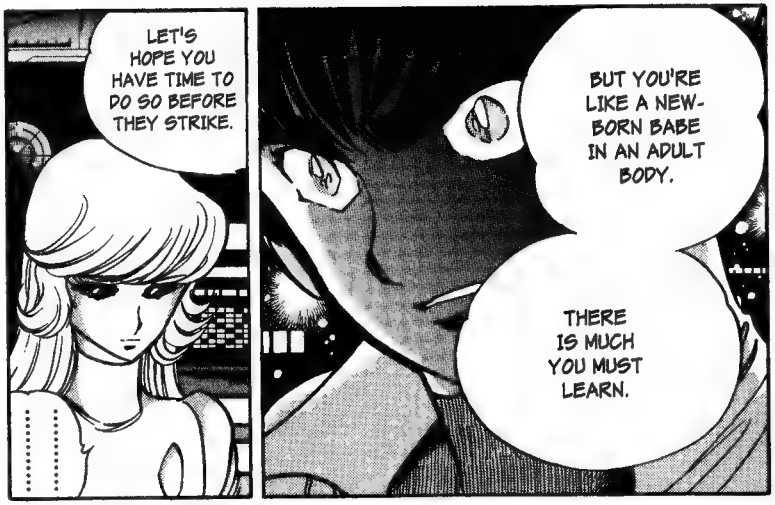
THIS GIFT *IS* A CURSE.
URG... GH... ...AN EMPHATIC REACTION...

I'M OKAY NOW!
THANKS, MAYA.

WE'LL BE READY FOR THOSE BITCHES.
BUT...
THEY'RE GONNA BE TOUGH TO BEAT.
HE WAS KILLED BY THE SAME WOMEN THAT ATTACKED HERE.



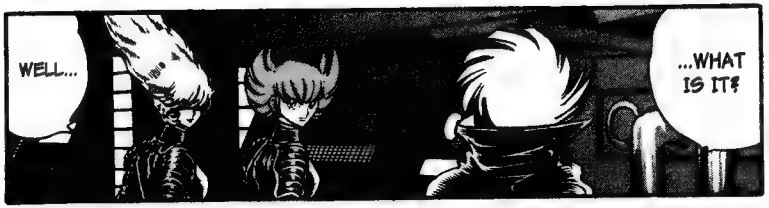
...THAT BASTARD RASPUTIN...
...IS MASS-PRODUCING IMITATIONS OF YOU.
HE'LL BE SENDING 'EM AFTER ME *SOON*, HIOKA!!
HEH.
YOU KNOW, SINCE *YOU* TURNED OUT *SO GREAT*...


LET'S HOPE YOU HAVE TIME TO DO SO BEFORE THEY STRIKE.
BUT YOU'RE LIKE A NEW-BORN BABE IN AN ADULT BODY.
THERE IS MUCH YOU MUST LEARN.

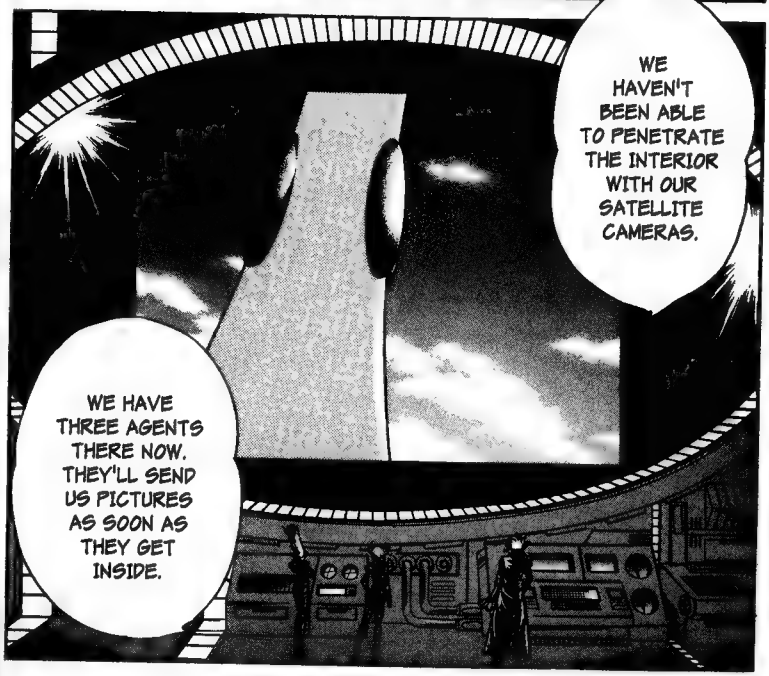
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEIR FACES WHEN THEY SEE THE ORIGINAL AT MY SIDE.
BETWEEN WHAT RASPUTIN DID TO YOU AND THE ENHANCEMENTS MAYA AND I HAVE ADDED, YOU ARE QUITE EASILY A GENETIC MASTER-PIECE.
YOU ARE STRONGER THAN YOU HAVE EVER IMAGINED.
A SUPERMAN BROUGHT TO LIFE BY SCIENCE.

CH. 48 MEET AGAIN

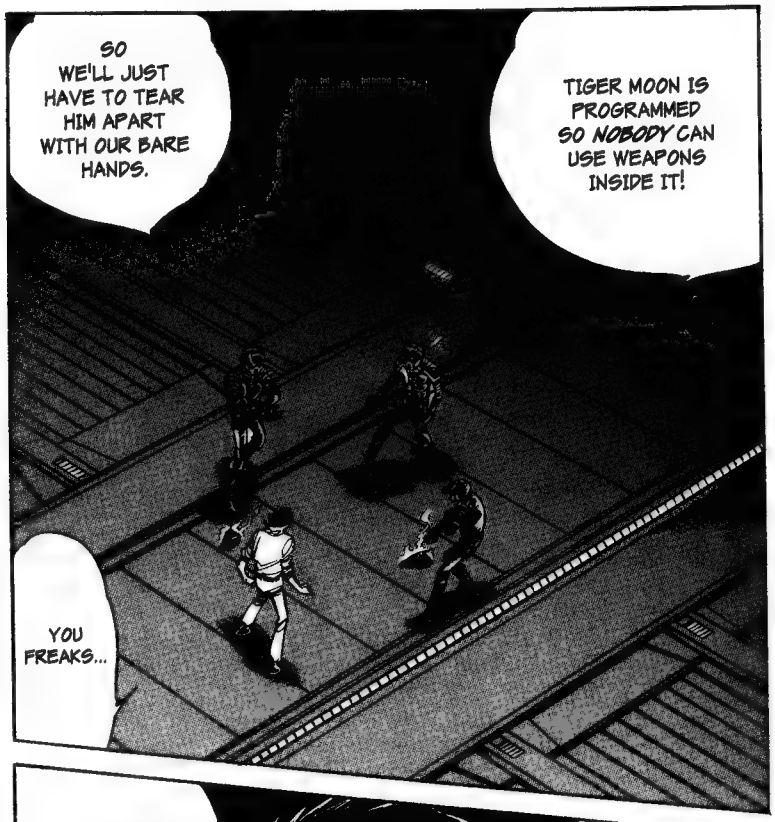
PERFECT. YOU MAY GO.


WELL...
...WHAT IS IT?

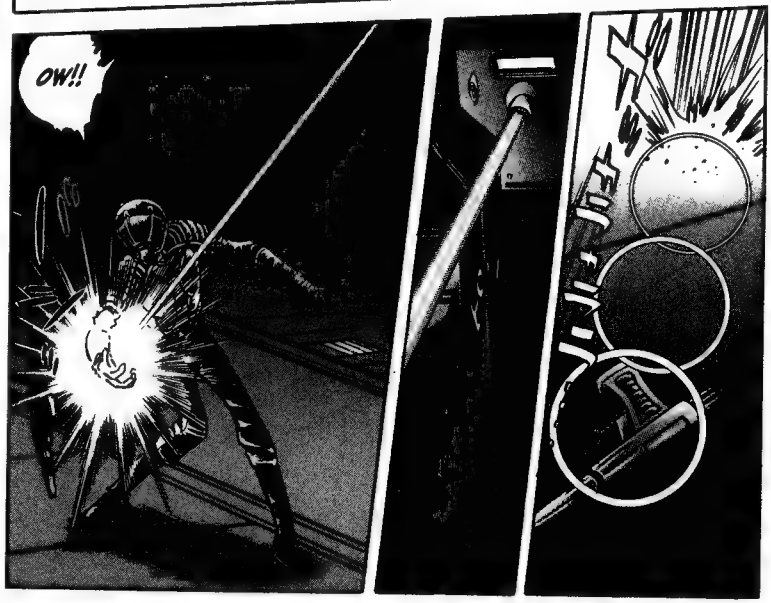
...WHEN YOU SLEEP WITH HER...
MR. RASPUTIN, I'VE HEARD YOU CAN SEE A GIRL'S FUTURE...


WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PENETRATE THE INTERIOR WITH OUR SATELLITE CAMERAS.
WE HAVE THREE AGENTS THERE NOW. THEY'LL SEND US PICTURES AS SOON AS THEY GET INSIDE.

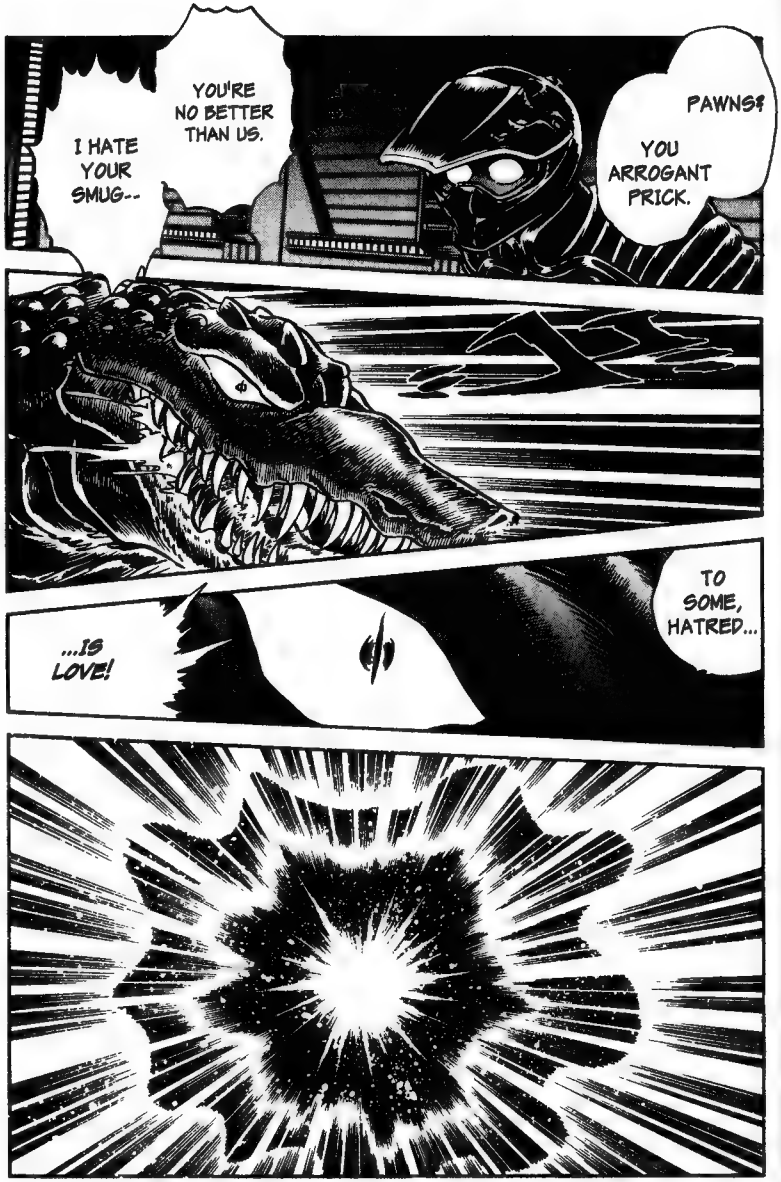
AND HOW DO YOU AIM TO BENEFIT FROM SUCH KNOWLEDGE?
WE'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW HOW OUR BATTLE WITH RYUSEI WILL GO.
WELL...
THE TRUTH...
IT WAS FAR TOO EASY TO BE FUN.
BUT...
RYUSEI CHISATO IS...
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. YOU LADIES ARE THE BEST.
WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR FIGHT WITH COBRA MAN?


SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TEAR HIM APART WITH OUR BARE HANDS.
TIGER MOON IS PROGRAMMED SO *NOBODY* CAN USE WEAPONS INSIDE IT!
YOU FREAKS...

THERE'S *NO WAY* THAT RASPUTIN COULD HAVE FOUND US BY HIMSELF!
WHO SENT YOU? HOW'D YOU FIND US?


OW!!

HE'S TRANS-FORMING.
WHAT IS HE?
HUH?!
YOU POOR SUCKERS.
YOU'RE PAWNS IN SOMEONE ELSE'S MASTER GAME.
THEY'RE SACRIFICING YOU TO GET TO A MERE VALUABLE PIECE.
WHA ...?


I HATE YOUR SMUG--
YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN US.
PAWNS?
YOU ARROGANT PRICK.
TO SOME, HATRED...
...IS LOVE!

ANY-
THING...?
DO
YOU
SEE
ANYTHING,
MR.
RASPUTIN?
NOT
YET...
AH...?!

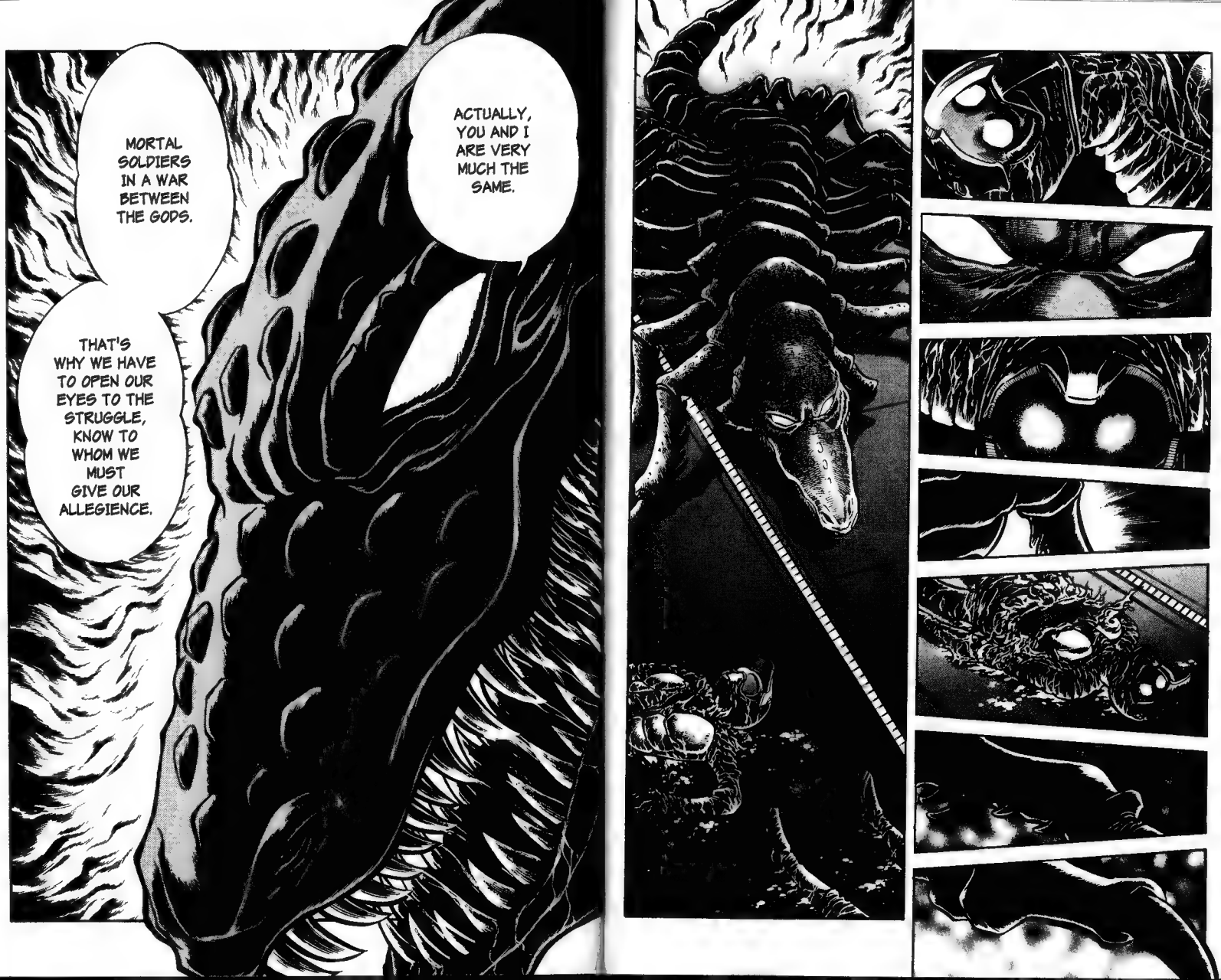
HMM...
THE THREE
AGENTS YOU
SENT INTO
THE TIGER
MOON --
THEY'RE
DEAD...
WHAT?!
DON'T
WORRY.
THEY
WERE
SPIES,
NOT
FIGHTERS.
THEIR
POWERS
WERE
NEGLIGIBLE
COMPARED
TO YOURS.
YES,
BUT...

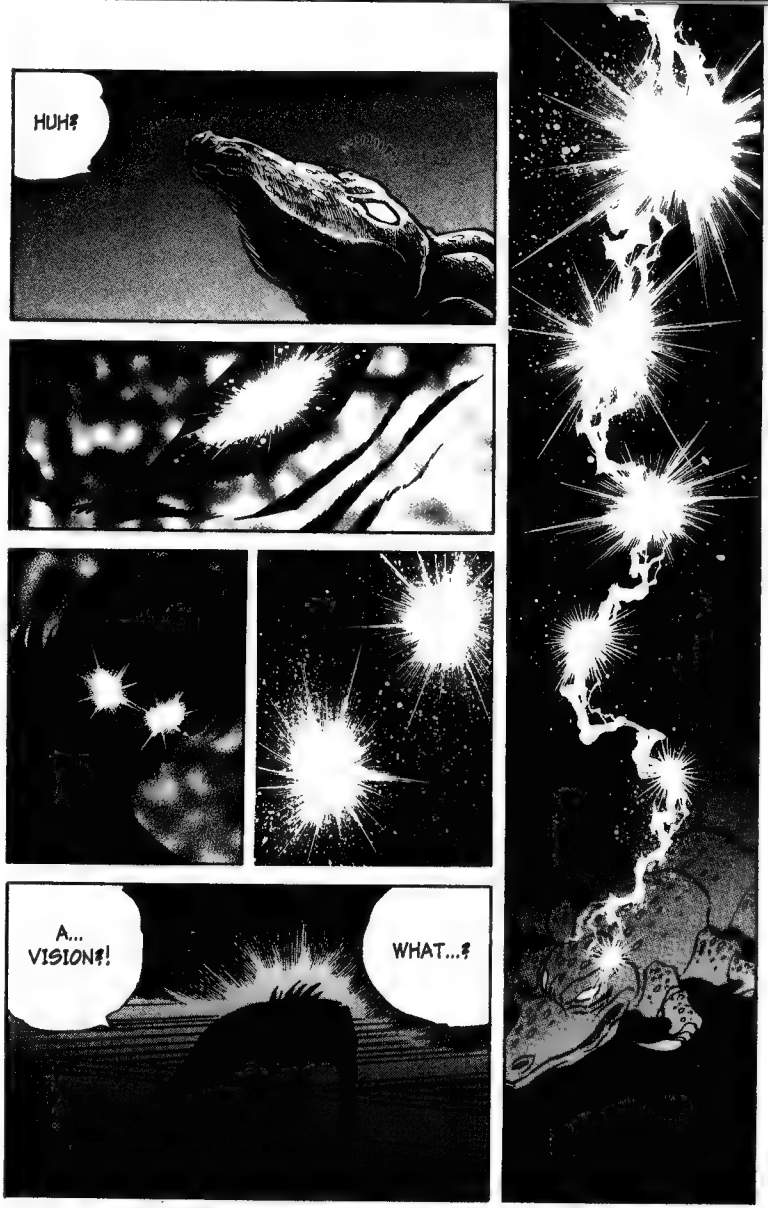
MS. RAN!
OH...!
PLAYING WITH THE GIRLS AGAIN, EH?
WHAT A WASTE OF YOUR REGENERATIVE POWERS.
NO WONDER YOU CAN NEVER BEAT RYUSEI. YOU'RE PLUNGING YOUR ABILITY INTO THE WRONG CONQUEST.
...!!

THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER IS HUMAN PASSION, BUT THIS IS SUCH A CHEAP, EMPTY WAY OF ACHIEVING IT.
IF YOU KEEP DEPENDING UPON THAT...
...YOUR ENERGY WILL INVERT AND DESTROY YOU FROM WITHIN.
BUT YOU KNOW THAT.
IT HAPPENED 100 YEARS AGO.
BUT THE SKULL MAN, RYUSEI CHISATO, RECHARGES HIMSELF THE SAME WAY.
AND HE DESTROYED HIMSELF ONCE TOO. NOW THAT HE'S ALIVE AGAIN, MAYA KEEPS HIS PASSION BALANCED.

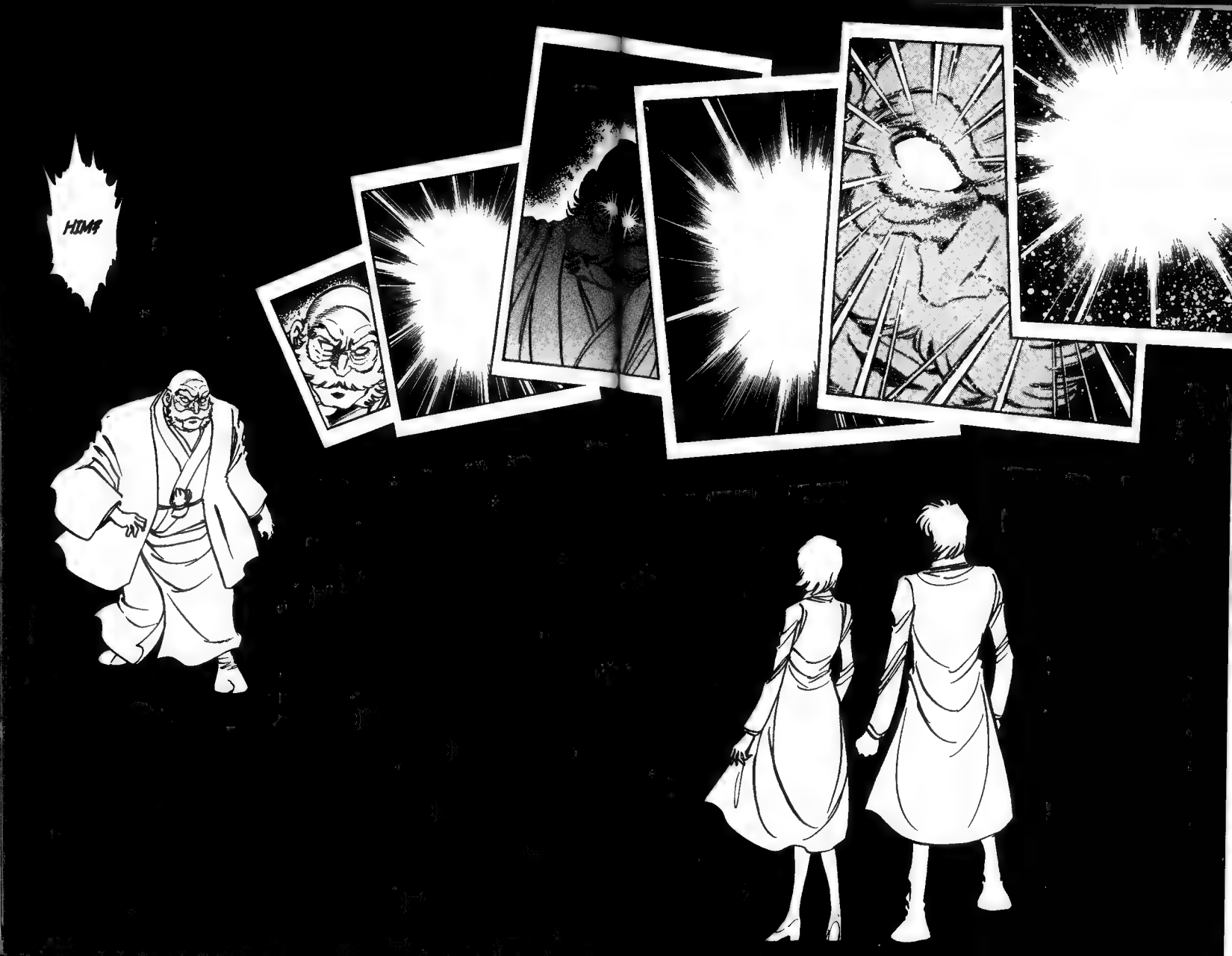
...HE'D BE A SITTING DUCK, CONFUSED, BLINDED AND EASY TO TERMINATE.
BUT IF I WERE TO USE THE LIGHT AGAINST HIM... DRAW HIM INTO IT...
WITH YOUR AID... MY DEAR.
DO YOU SEE US WINNING, THEN?
UM...

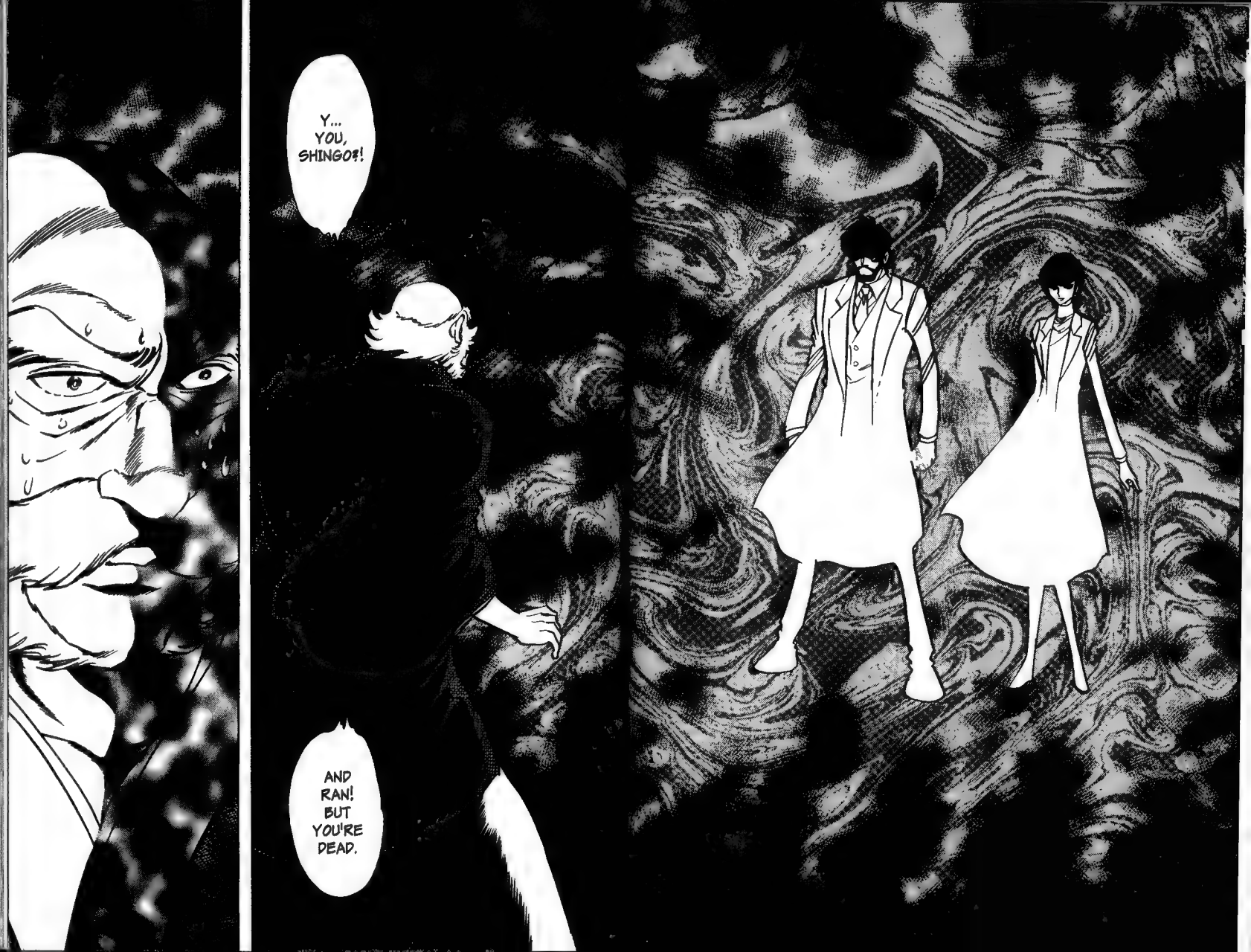
WELL, IF YOU MUST, HURRY UP!
YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE HIM MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR OUR ATTACK.
.....
I DON'T NEED A TACTICAL LESSON FROM YOU.
IF YOU GET USED TO THE DARKNESS, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE STRENGTH TO RETURN TO THE LIGHT.
RYUSEI AND I...
WE'VE BEEN CONSUMED BY THE DARKNESS. WE'LL NEVER RETURN TO THE LIGHT.
MR. RASPUTIN...
BLACK DARK-NESS AND WHITE LIGHT...


ACTUALLY, YOU AND I ARE VERY MUCH THE SAME.
MORTAL SOLDIERS IN A WAR BETWEEN THE GODS.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO OPEN OUR EYES TO THE STRUGGLE, KNOW TO WHOM WE MUST GIVE OUR ALLEGIENCE.

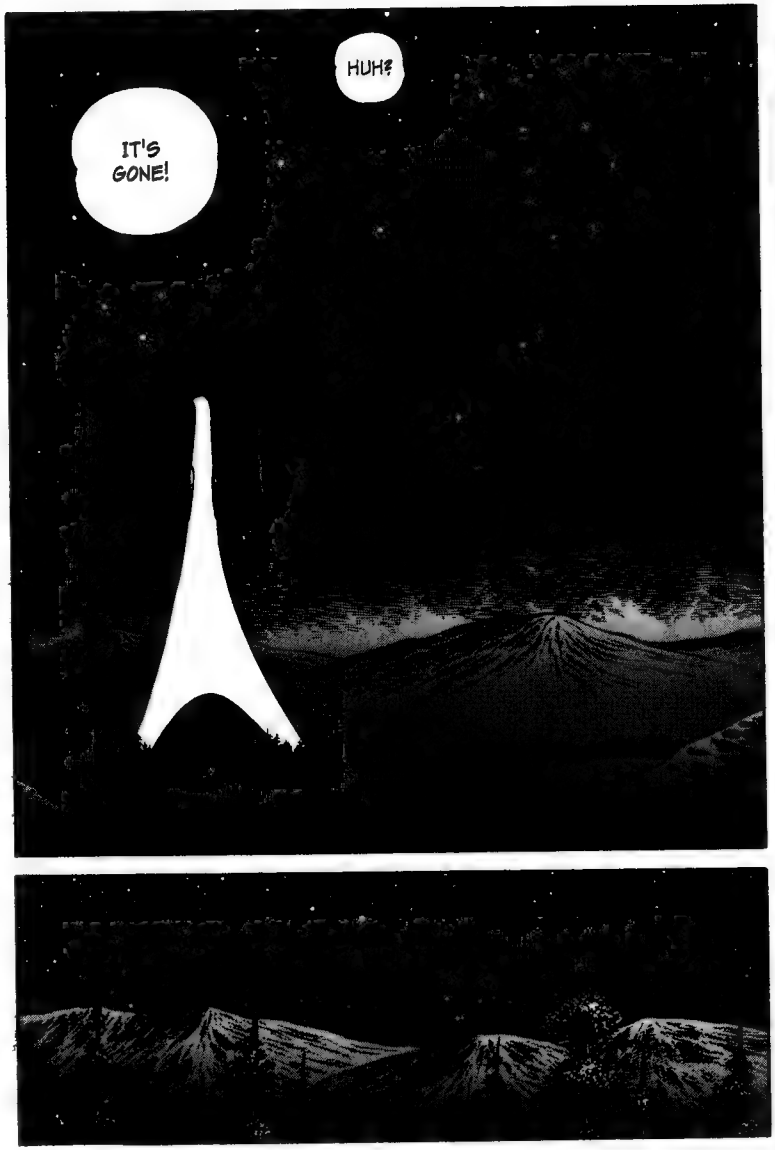

HUH?
A... VISION?!
WHAT...?

AAGHHR
UH...
!!

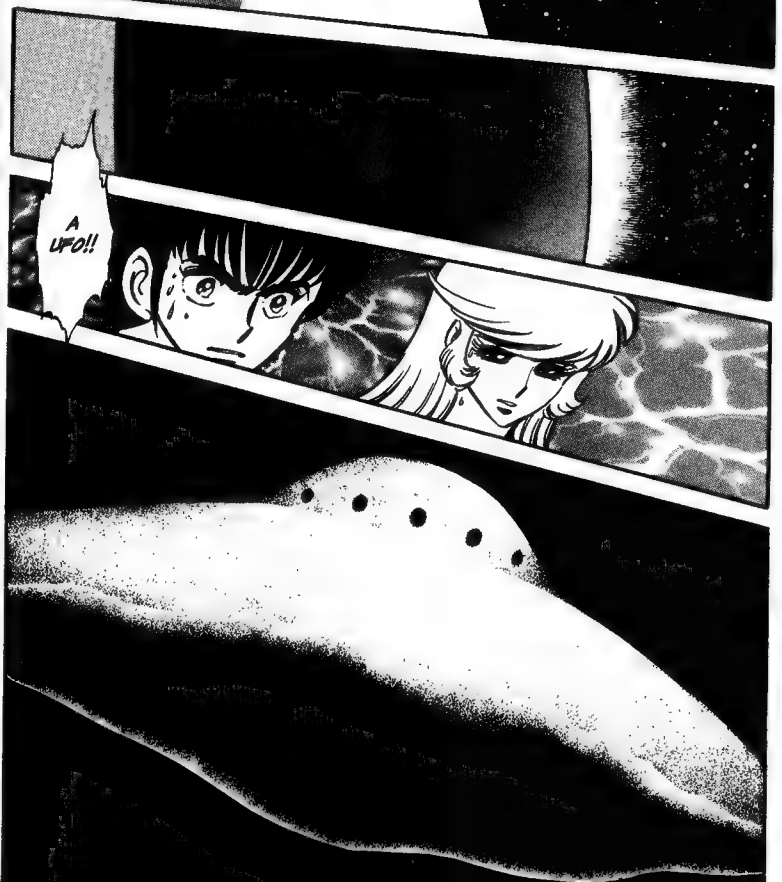

HIM?

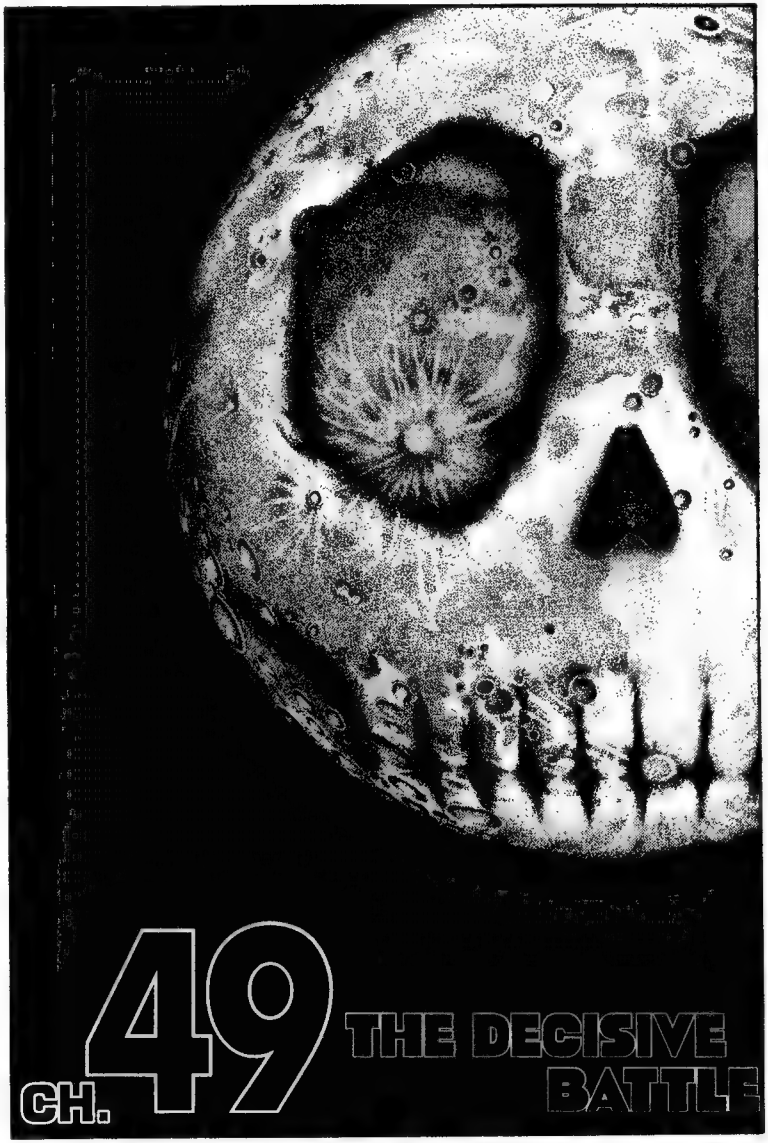

Y... YOU, SHINGO?!
AND RAN! BUT YOU'RE DEAD.

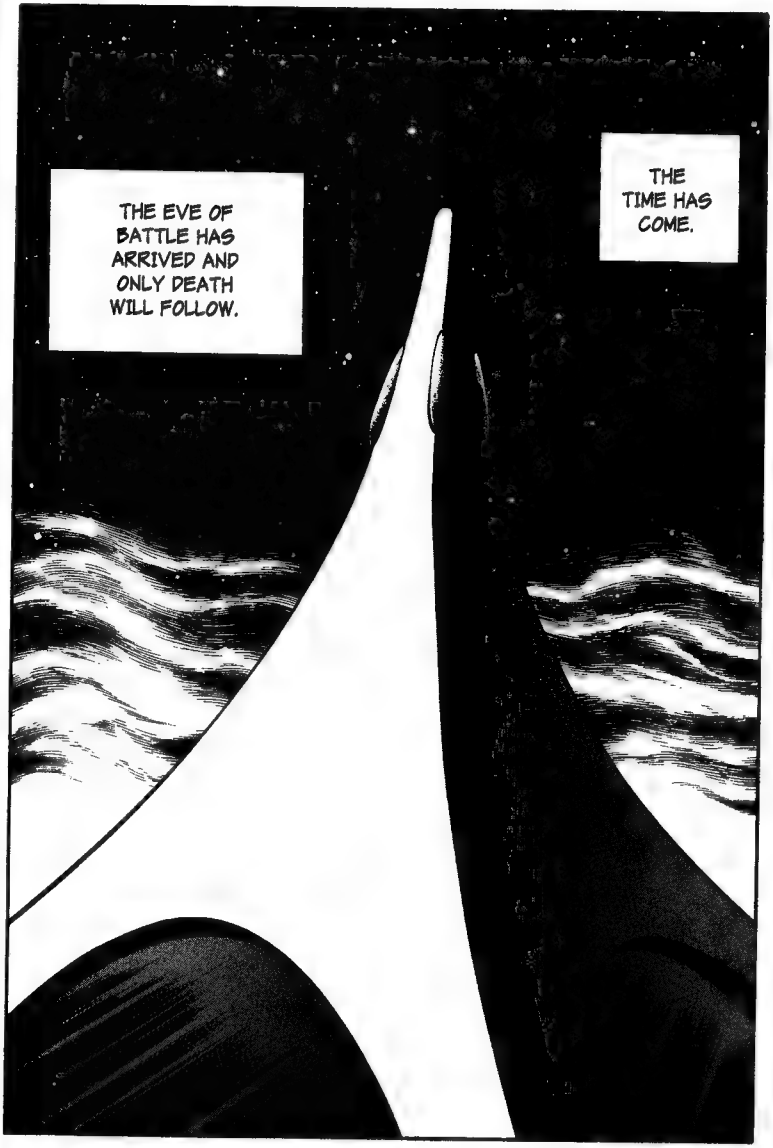
WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED...
YOU TWO...
IT TOOK US A WHILE TO FIND YOU, FATHER. WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOUR SPIRIT ESCAPED INTO GARO'S BODY.
YOU CAN'T DO IT. I WON'T LET YOU.
...NO! YOU'VE COME BACK TO FINISH THE INSANITY YOU STARTED.
...TO FINISH YOUR MAD SCHEME!!
STOP TRYING TO MANIPULATE YOUR OWN CHILDREN...
PLEASE STOP! NO MORE!
NO! NO!

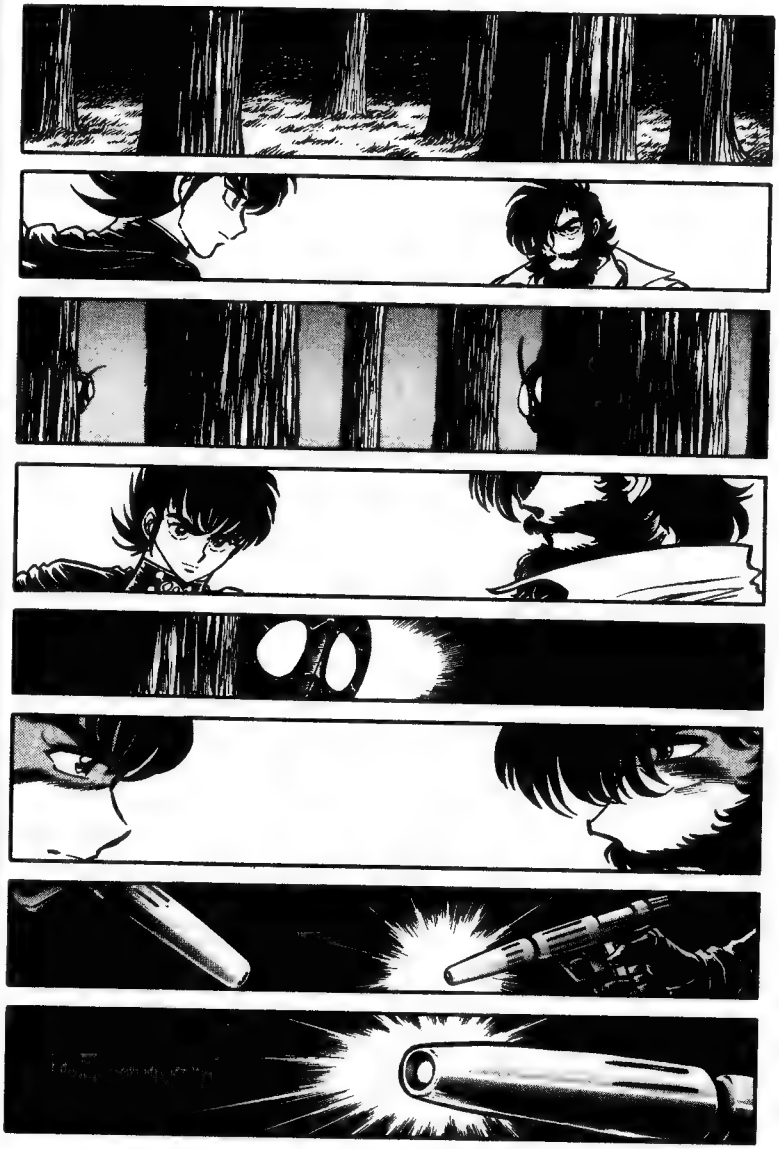

HUH?
IT'S GONE!

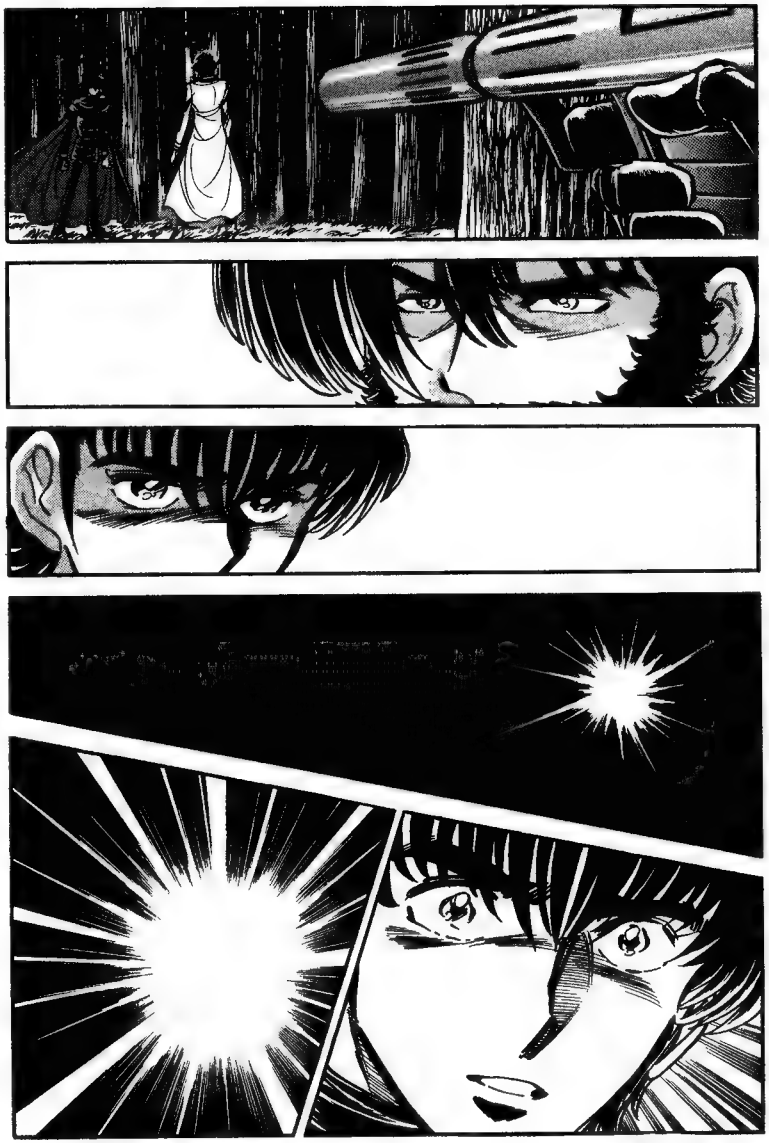
OH...?!
WHA...
WHAT IS IT?!

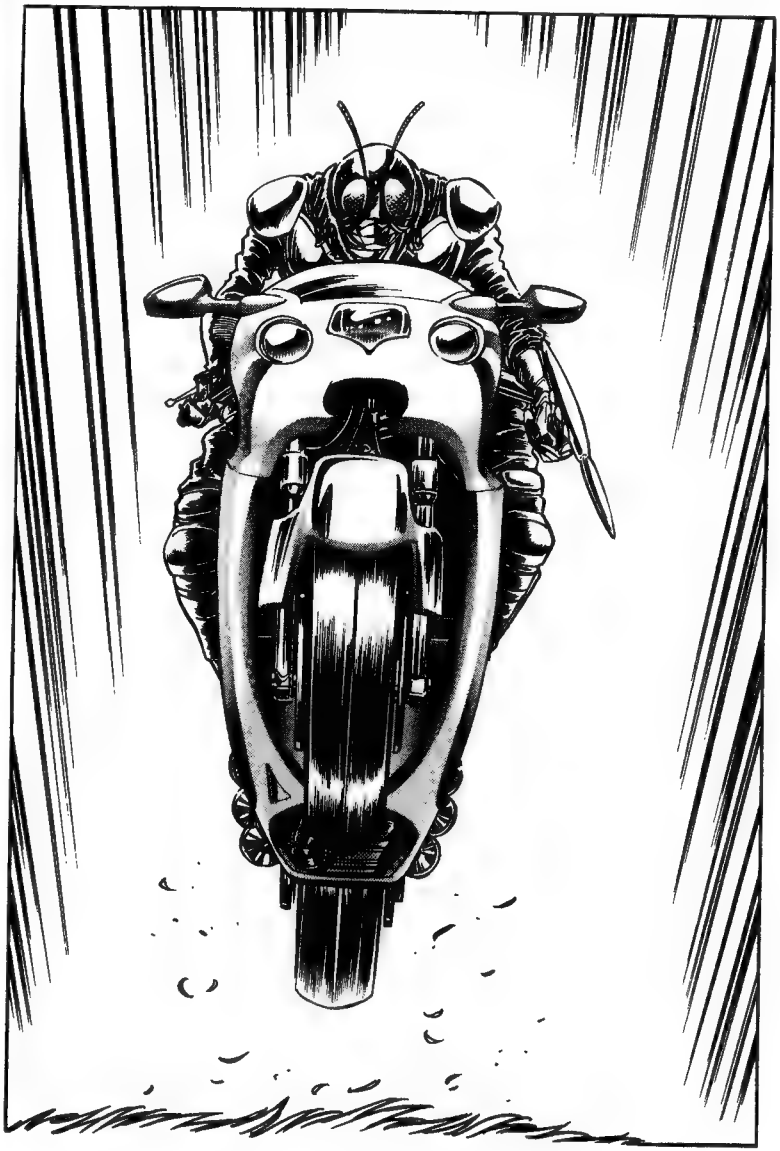

A UFO!!

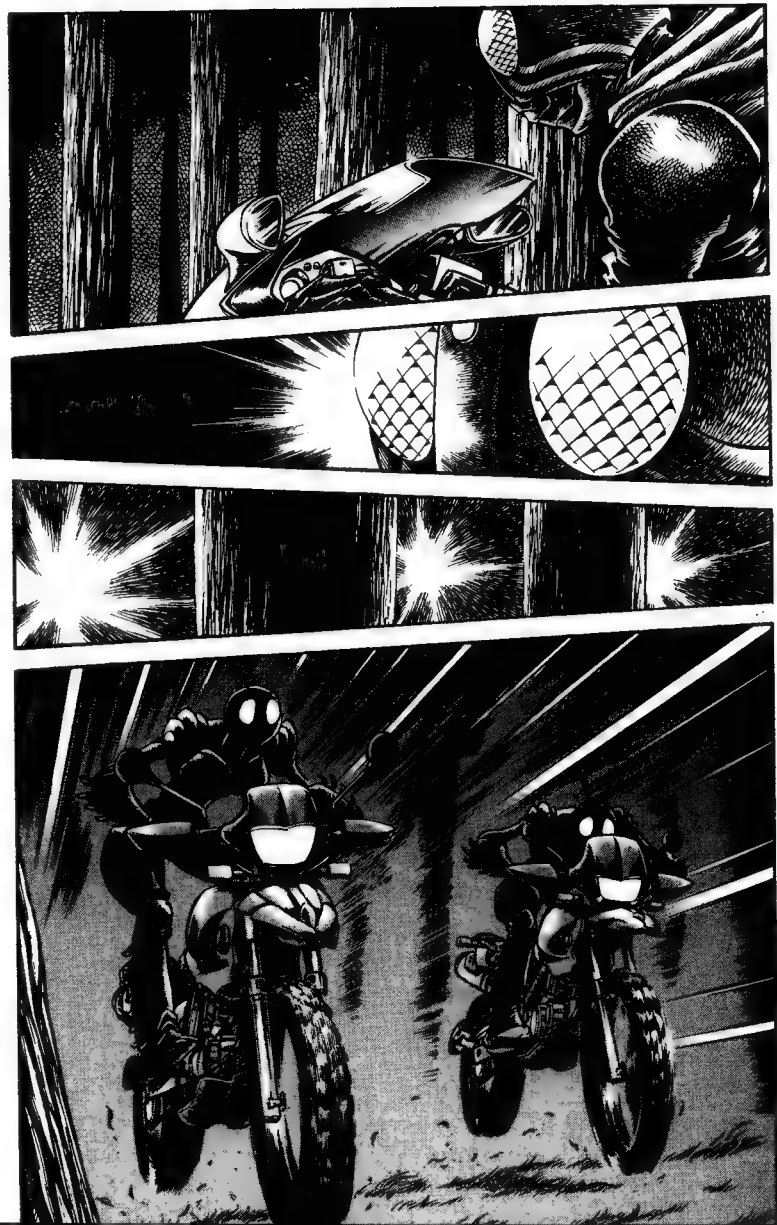

CH. 49
THE DECISIVE BATTLE

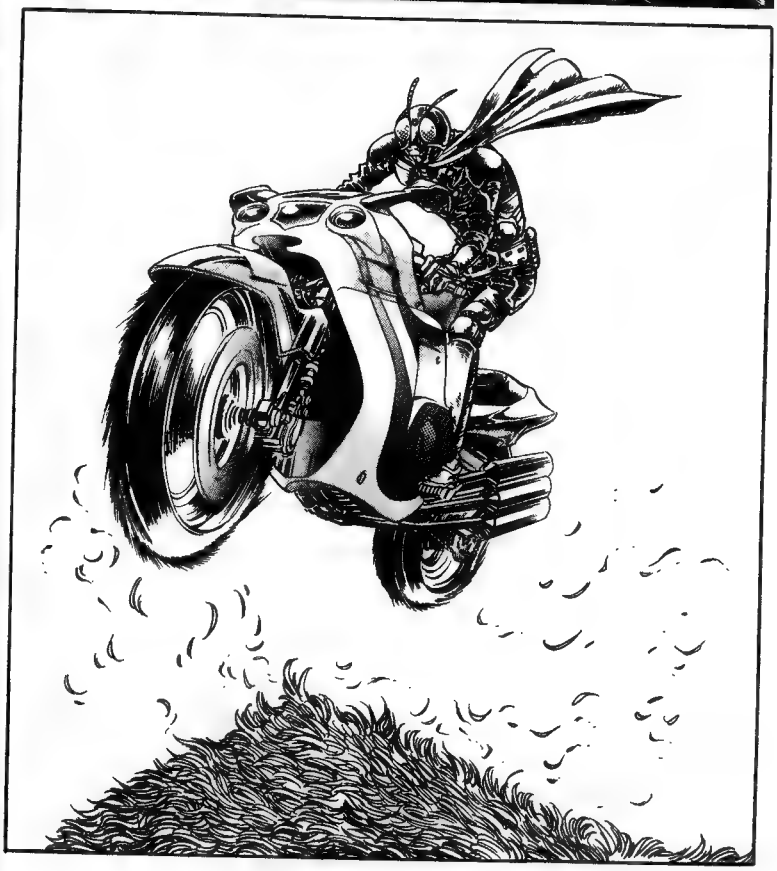

THE EVE OF BATTLE HAS ARRIVED AND ONLY DEATH WILL FOLLOW.
THE TIME HAS COME.



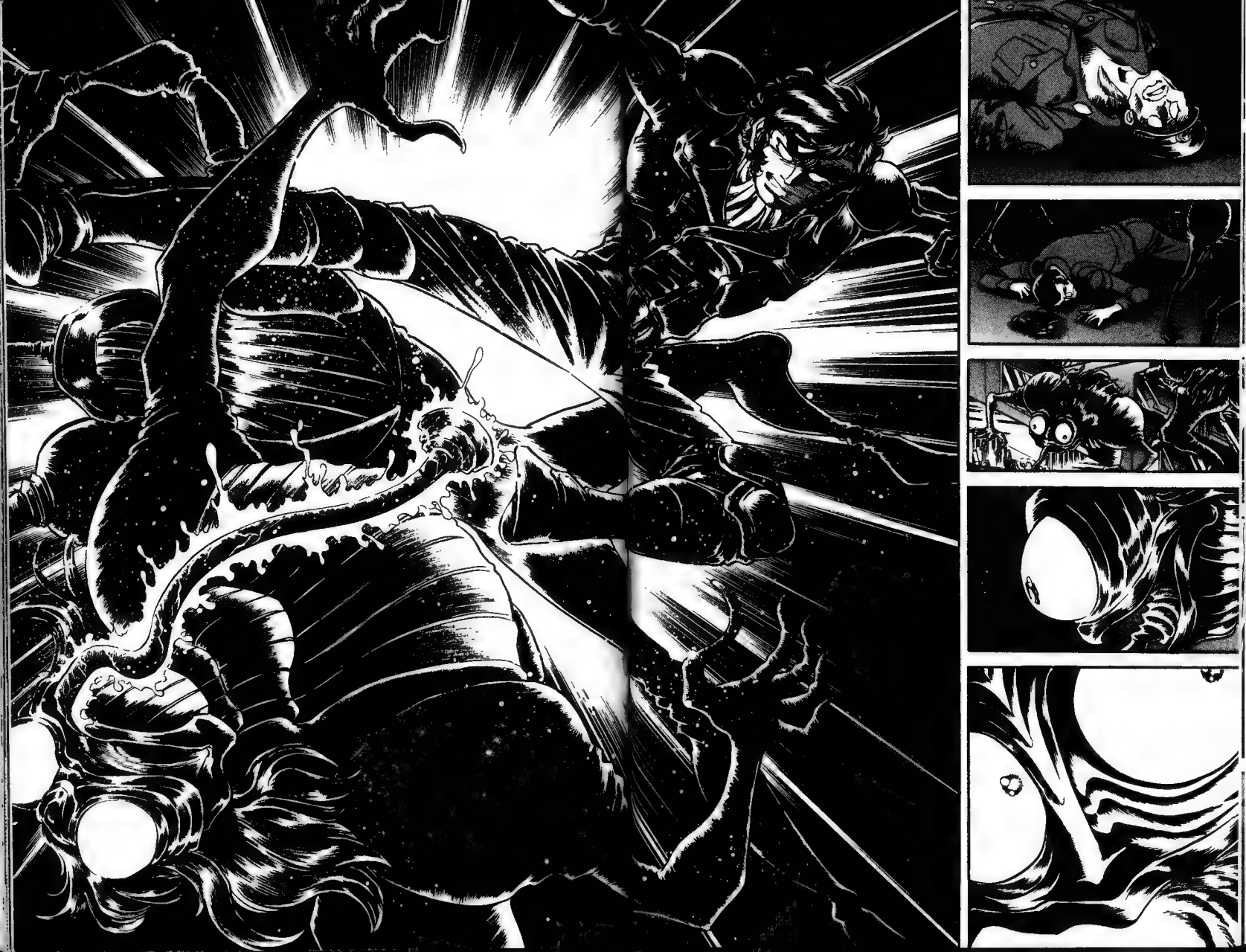


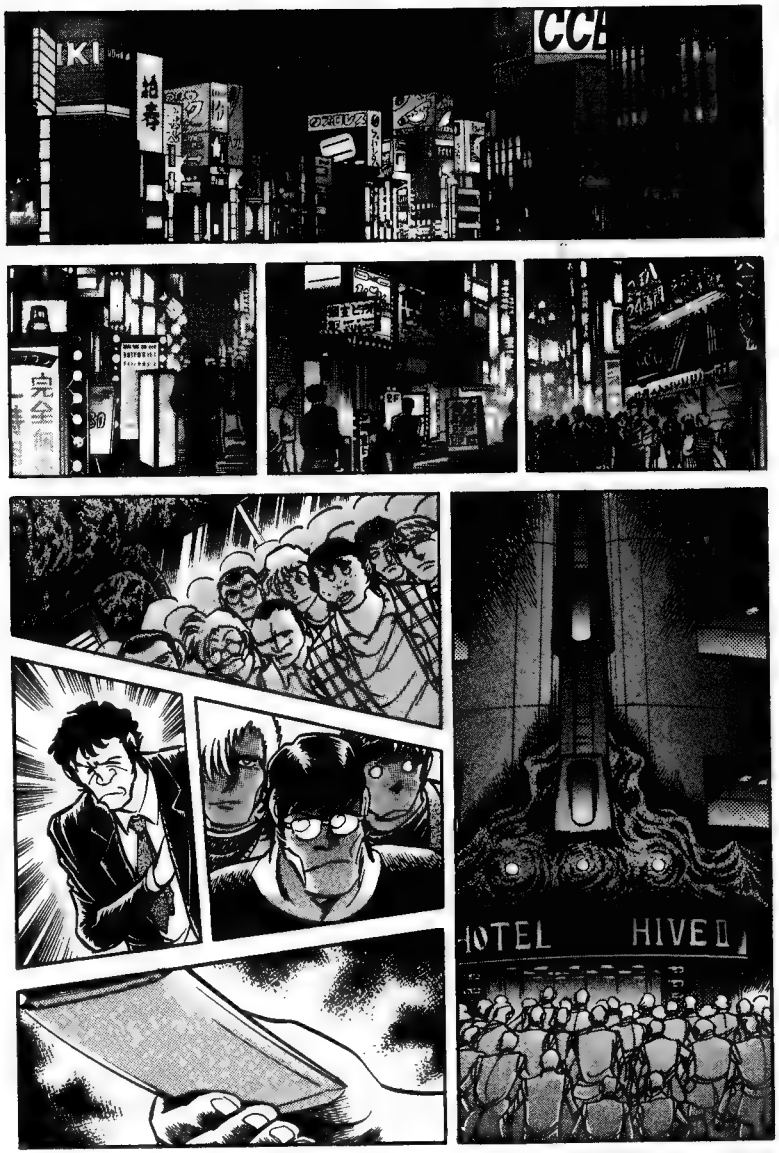






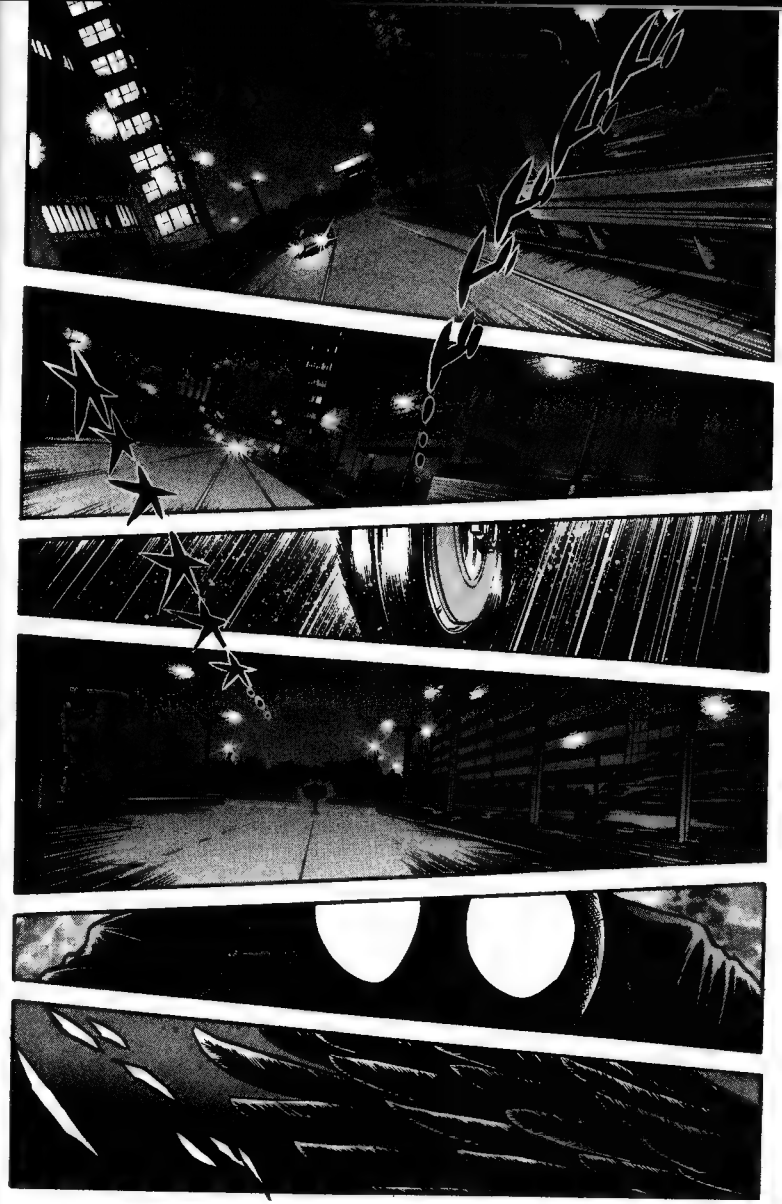
CH.50
PROLOGUE FOR
DAYS OF LONG WAR
長き戦いの日々へのプロローグ

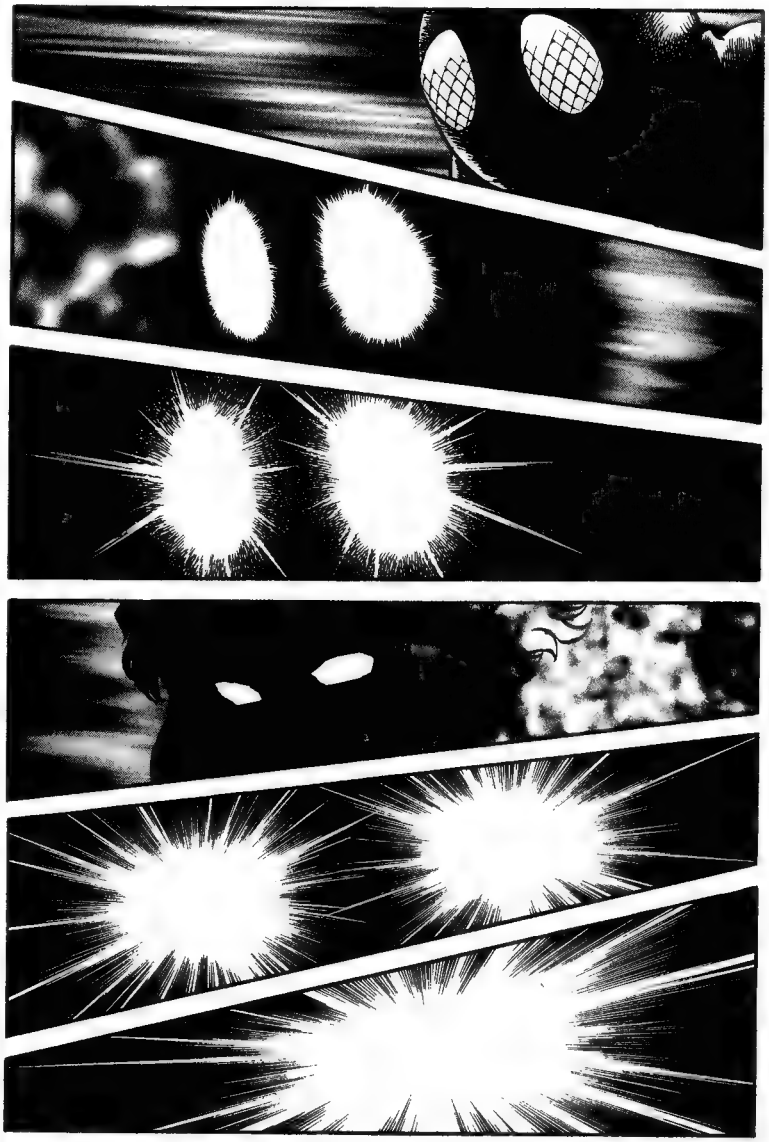


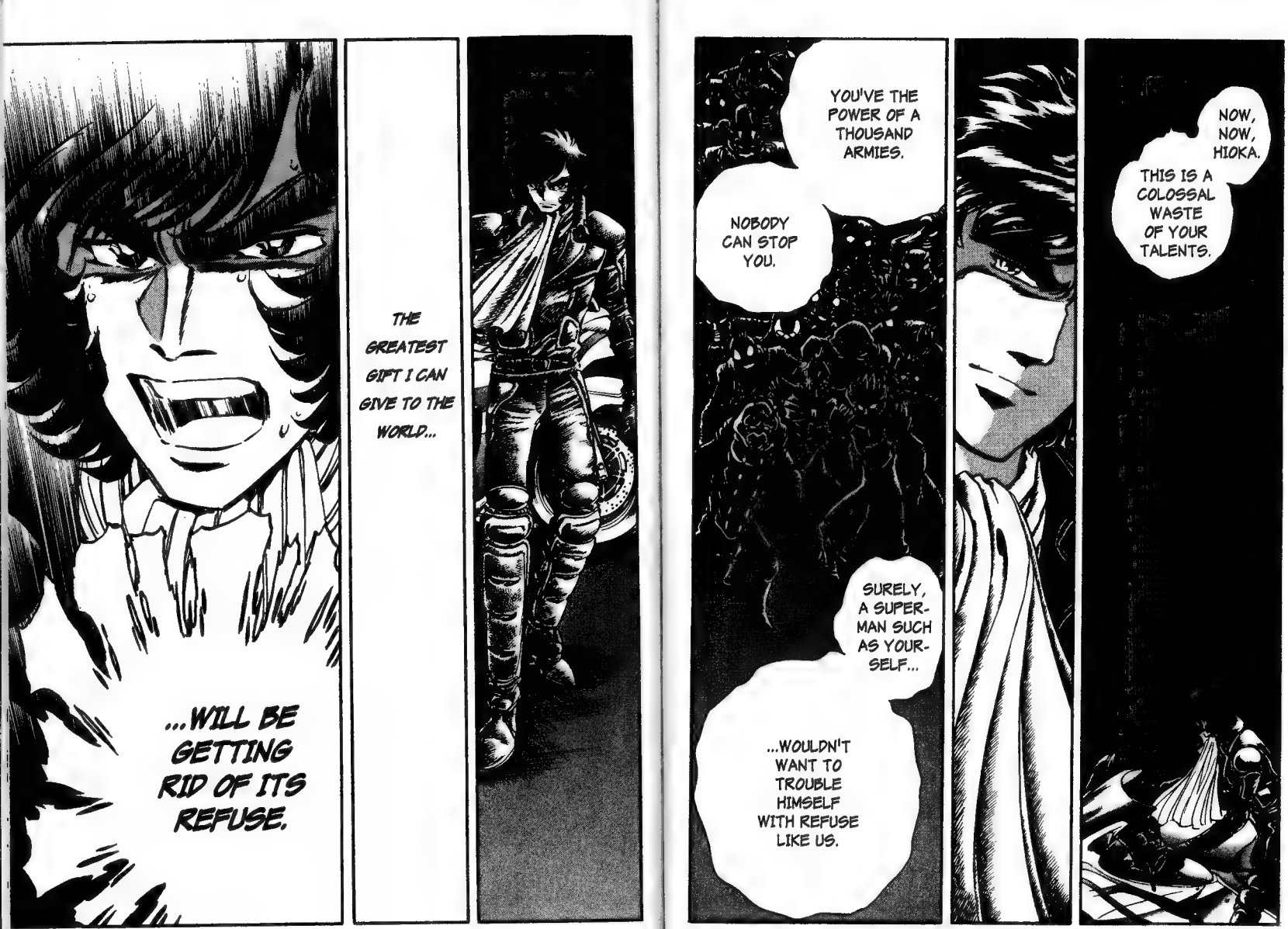

HOTEL HIVED

YOU DOGS...
...UP TO THE SAME OLD TRICKS!

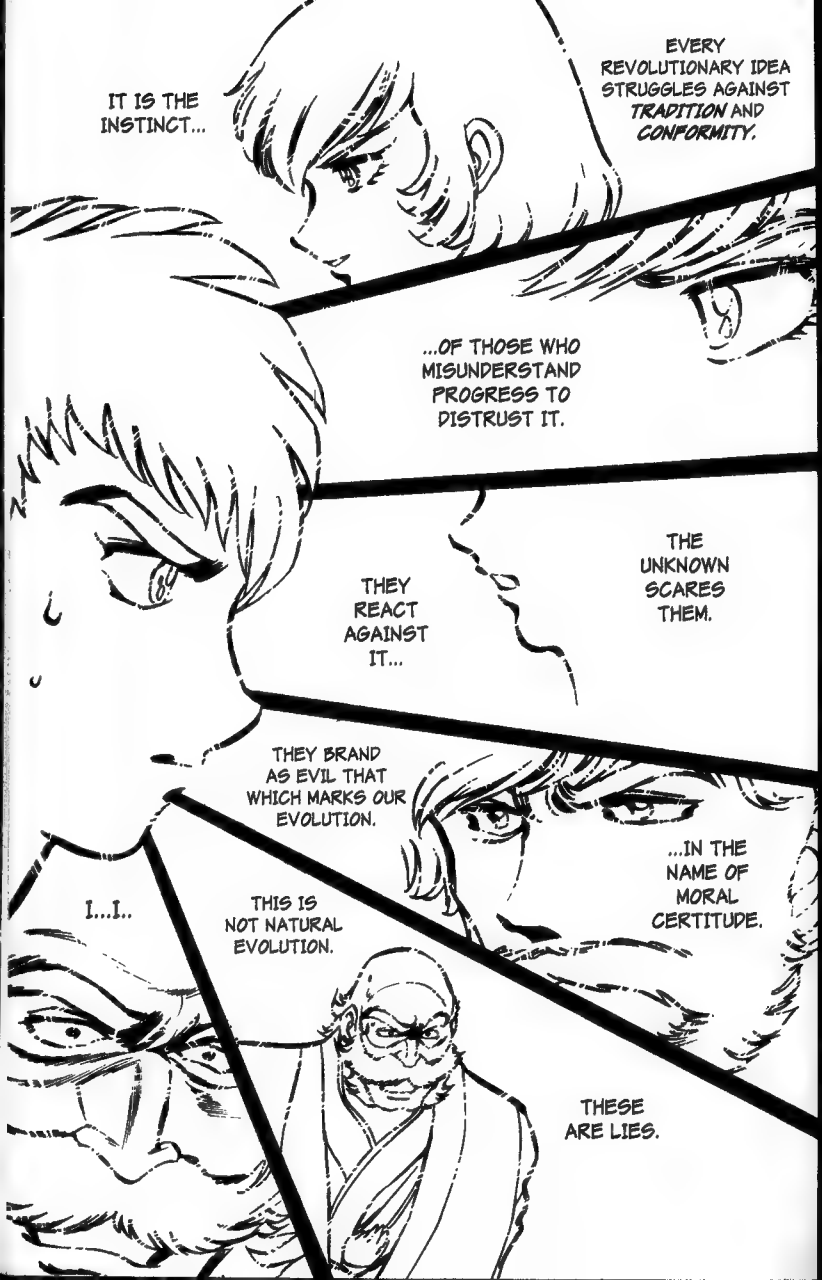
THEY'RE CONTROLLING YOUR MINDS.
SNAP OUT OF IT!!!



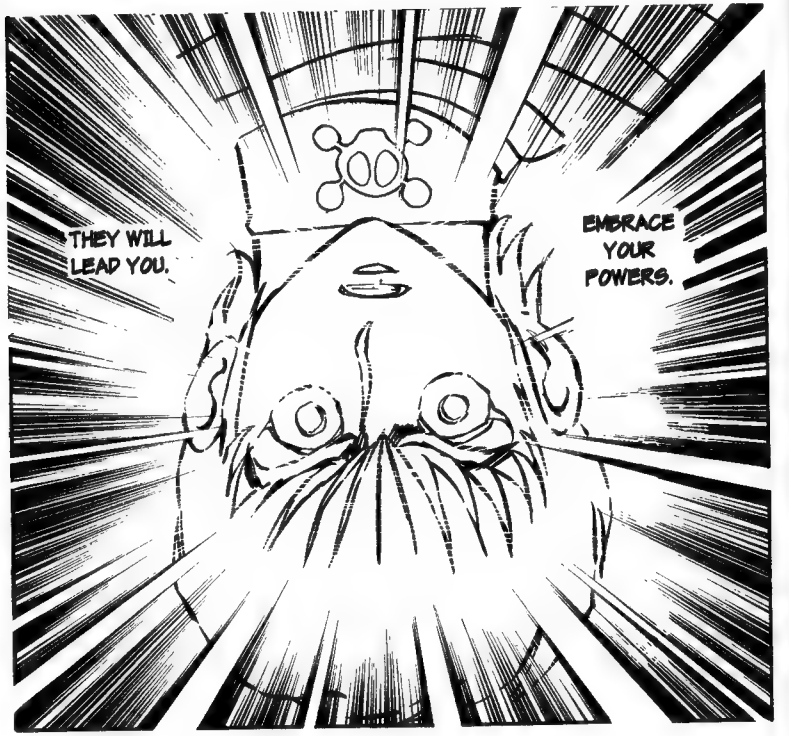


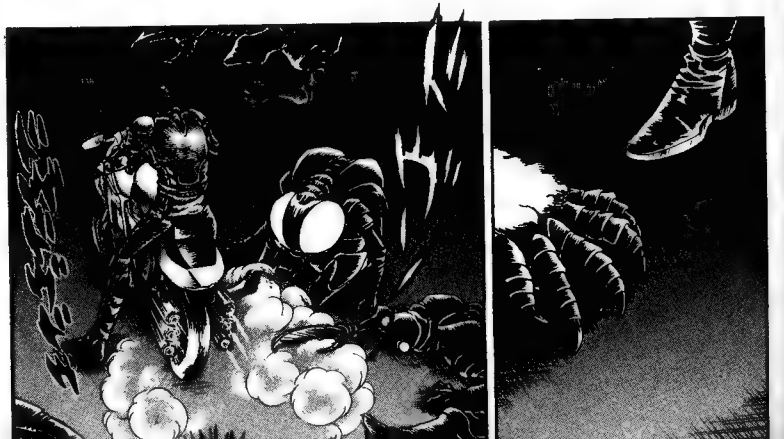

NOW, NOW, HIOKA.
THIS IS A COLOSSAL WASTE OF YOUR TALENTS.
YOU'VE THE POWER OF A THOUSAND ARMIES.
NOBODY CAN STOP YOU.
SURELY, A SUPER-MAN SUCH AS YOUR-SELF...
...WOULDN'T WANT TO TROUBLE HIMSELF WITH REFUSE LIKE US.

THE GREATEST GIFT I CAN GIVE TO THE WORLD...
...WILL BE GETTING RID OF ITS REFUSE.

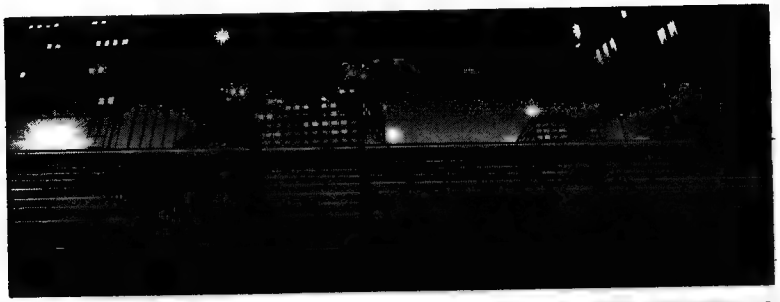

IT IS THE INSTINCT...
EVERY REVOLUTIONARY IDEA STRUGGLES AGAINST *TRADITION* AND *CONFORMITY.*
...OF THOSE WHO MISUNDERSTAND PROGRESS TO DISTRUST IT.
THE UNKNOWN SCARES THEM.
THEY REACT AGAINST IT...
THEY BRAND AS EVIL THAT WHICH MARKS OUR EVOLUTION.
...IN THE NAME OF MORAL CERTITUDE.
I...I..
THIS IS NOT NATURAL EVOLUTION.
THESE ARE LIES.

RYUSEI...
RYUSEI...
DO YOU?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND YET?
NO, YOU HAVEN'T A CLUE, DO YOU?

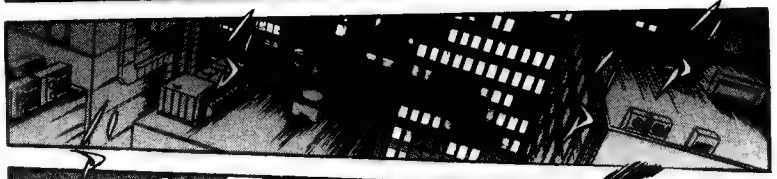

THEY WILL LEAD YOU.
EMBRACE YOUR POWERS.

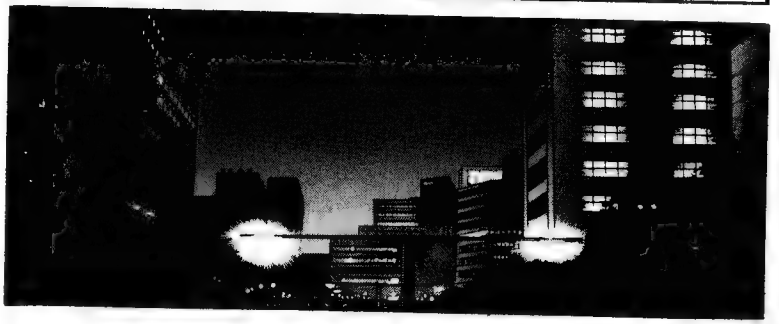


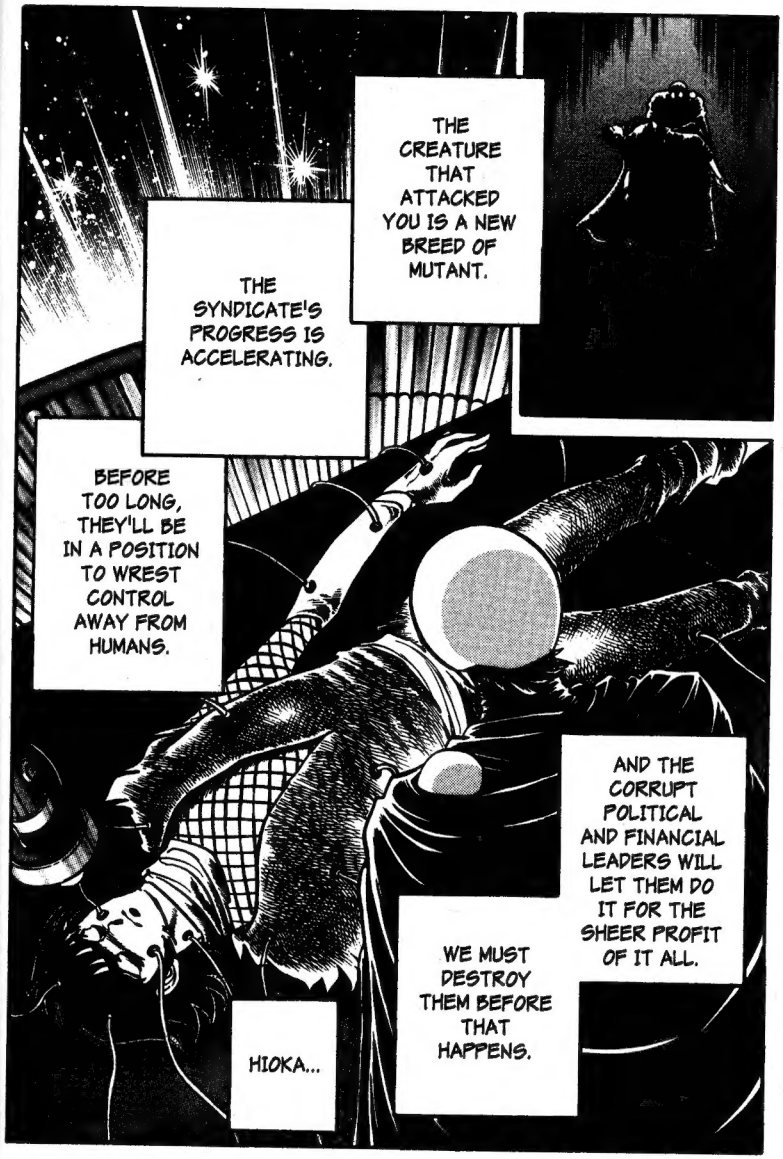
LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF, THE TRUTH LIES WITHIN YOU.
YOU'LL LEARN IN TIME, MY SON.
DA... DAD... MOM...?!
I CAN'T GO ON... LIKE THIS!

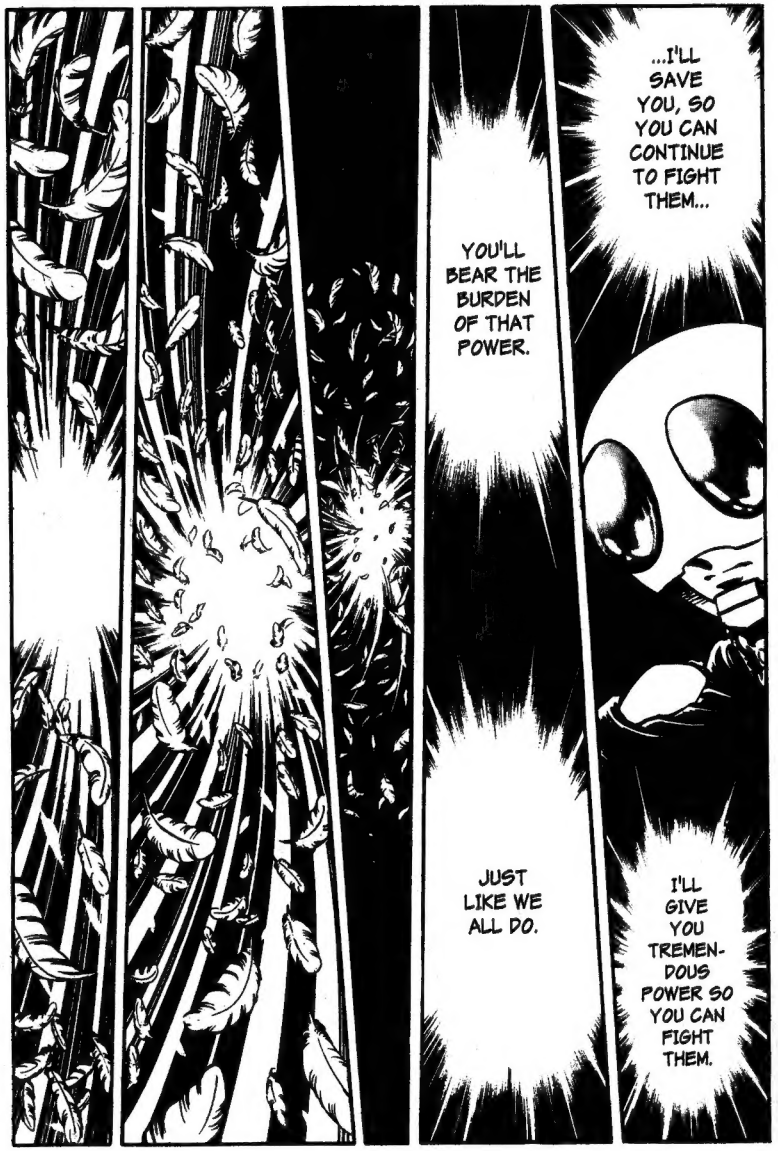


PM4:55 AM6:33
本屋






THE CREATURE THAT ATTACKED YOU IS A NEW BREED OF MUTANT.
THE SYNDICATE'S PROGRESS IS ACCELERATING.
BEFORE TOO LONG, THEY'LL BE IN A POSITION TO WREST CONTROL AWAY FROM HUMANS.
AND THE CORRUPT POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL LEADERS WILL LET THEM DO IT FOR THE SHEER PROFIT OF IT ALL.
WE MUST DESTROY THEM BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
HIOKA...


...I'LL SAVE YOU, SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO FIGHT THEM...
YOU'LL BEAR THE BURDEN OF THAT POWER.
JUST LIKE WE ALL DO.
I'LL GIVE YOU TREMEN-DOUS POWER SO YOU CAN FIGHT THEM.

Kick the book
wilson wilson